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W. Clark. M.D.



T. King sculps. Homerton, Hackney.





John Knott M.D.



THE ANCIENT  
PHYSICIAN's  
LEGACY to his Country.

BEING

What he has collected himself in Forty-nine  
Years Practice, &c.



• THE ANCIENT

PHYSICIANS

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LEGACY to the County

binding

WILL OF THE PHYSICIANS COLLEGE OF HERTFORDSHIRE  
YESTERDAY 15 AUGUST 1870

PHYSICIANS COLLEGE

P. Croft

# THE ANCIENT PHYSICIAN's LEGACY to his Country.

BEING

What he has collected himself in  
Forty-nine Years Practice:

OR,

An ACCOUNT of the several DISEASES incident to Mankind, described in so plain a Manner, that any Person may know the Nature of his own Disease.

Together with the several Remedies for each Distemper, faithfully set down.

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Designed for the Use of all Private Families.

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*Homines ad Deos, nullâ in re proprius accedunt, quam Salutem hominibus dando.* CIC.

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By THOMAS DOVER M.B.

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The Fifth Edition.

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In this Edition are very considerable Additions; besides a great Number of Letters sent from several Parts of *England* of the extraordinary Cures perform'd by Crude Mercury. With some Remarks on the Author of the *Use and Abuse of Mercury*.

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L O N D O N :

Printed for A. BETTESWOTH and C. HITCH, at the *Red Lion* in *Pater-Noster-Row*; and J. BROTHERTON, at the *Bible*, next the *Fleece-Tavern* in *Cornhill*. 1733.

Price stitched Three Shillings.

# *The Dedication.*

(if the Word is not too harsh) in this Profession, as well as in all others ; and the greatest Part of its Followers will not fail to oppose the least Step towards a Reformation.

YOUR Reputation is so well established, that the sheltering myself under your Name, may be some Security against Calumny ; your Esteem must naturally procure me the Esteem of all good Men ; and this, one would think, might in some Measure soften, if not entirely subdue the Spirit of Detraction.

To

# The Dedication.

To mention the Antiquity of your Family (though it extends to the most ancient of our Kings) is needless: Your own *Personal Merit* gives you a much higher Value, not only than your *Birth*, but than any *Title* which the Crown could confer upon you: I have ever hated *Flattery*; and I believe there is not a Gentleman who has the *Honour* and *Happiness* to know you, but will readily allow that what I say of you is strictly true.

COULD this Essay as effectually establish the *Health*, as the whole Course of your Life has

# *The Dedication.*

has promoted the *Happiness* of Mankind, it would more than answer my utmost Hopes : But however short I may fall in this Respect, I have at least an Opportunity of gratifying my Ambition, by declaring myself,

**S I R,**

*Your most obliged,*

*Most faithful, and*

*Most devoted Servant,*

**THOMAS DOVER.**

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THE ANCIENT  
PHYSICIAN'S  
Legacy to his *Country*.

I HAVE spent the greatest Part of my Life without the least Thought of becoming an Author ; and if it should be ask'd, What makes me now appear in Print : I answer, That I have acquired in Physick, by my long Study and Practice, what I conceive may be for the common Benefit of Mankind ; and therefore I publish my Observations.

If this should not be allowed as a sufficient Reason, by some who have expressed no Good Will towards me, it will give me but little Concern : I leave what I write to the unprejudiced Reader.

My Design is to touch on such Parts of Physick, as I conceive most necessary to be understood by every Practitioner, and which seem to me hitherto to have been neither ex-

plained, nor accounted for in a proper Manner, notwithstanding the voluminous Works in which they have been treated of.

AUTHORS, for the most Part, follow one another, and deviate but little from the common Track. This Method I shall in no wise pursue ; my Design being to set down only such Things as have occurred to me from the Practice and Experience of *Forty-nine Years.*

I AM very sensible that my Stile is not correct, and I shall take no extraordinary Care to polish it. I shall be sufficiently satisfied, if what I write be intelligible, and if my Matter be thought worth attending to. In a Word, I shall be contented if this Treatise does but in some Measure deserve the Character which Mr. *Budgell* gives of the Writings of the Honourable *Robert Boyle* Esq; in his most excellent *Memoirs of the Family of the Boyles*. Mr. *Budgell*, who seems to inherit the Genius of his near Relation, the great Mr. *Addison*, speaks of Mr. *Boyle's* Stile in the following Words :

“ It must be confessed, that his Stile is  
 “ far from being correct; that it is too  
 “ wordy and prolix; and that though it is  
 “ for the most part plain and easy, yet,  
 “ that he has sometimes made use of harsh  
 “ and antiquated Expressions; yet under  
 “ all these Disadvantages, so curious is his  
 “ Matter, and so solid are his Observations,  
 “ that the hardest Thing we can say of his  
 “ most careless Piece is, That it appears like  
 “ a beautiful Woman in an Undress.”

IF a Gentleman, who is so perfect a Master of every sort of Stile himself, (for though I cannot *paint*, yet I pretend to know a good Picture,) prefers *solid Matter* to a *Flourish of Words*; I hope none of my Readers will pretend to be more squeamish.

IT is essentially necessary in the Cure of Diseases, to be thoroughly acquainted with the Nature of them: Without this Knowledge, no Good is to be done. On the contrary, much Harm may probably ensue, from the Physician’s mistaking the Patient’s Case; which in some Persons is easily discovered, in others very difficult to understand.

THIS, I apprehend, proceeds from the Affinity and Resemblance there is between different Diseases; which, though often attended with the same Symptoms, yet proceed from different Causes, and consequently require various Methods of Cure: For which Reason the Physician should be very cautious in prescribing, till he has fully examined the Symptoms of the Disease, compared them with the several Answers of the Patient, and till he has just Reasons to think he understands the Nature of the Distemper.

COMPLICATED Cases are most difficult; neither is it possible to determine any Thing of them before they happen, by Reason of their various Degrees, and uncertain Combinations.

IN these Cases, so very hard to be adjusted, it may be pardonable for a Physician to err a little; but in simple Diseases, the Mistake admits of no Excuse.

To go no farther than a Dropfy. — I have attended some Persons in this Distemper, where it has taken very deep Root. — Their Legs, Thighs, and Bodies have been blown up like Bladders; yet some of these Persons have been blooded four or five Times,

in order, as was said, to relieve their Shortness of Breath ; whereas Shortness of Breath is not always an Indication for Bleeding.

THERE are three Causes of a *Dyspnæa*, or Shortness of Breath ; Inflammation, Convulsion, and Plenitude : Bleeding in Convulsions, if it has not been, ought to be exploded ; and in Fulness, occasioned by Drop-sies, it is pernicious to the last Degree.

I SHALL make no Scruple to affirm, That Shortness of Breath, though it be what we term *Actio Læsa*, makes no Distemper, without some other bad Symptoms attending it ; if it did, a Man who runs, or uses any violent Exercise, causing Shortness of Breathing, might be said to be distemper'd.

NEITHER, in other Cases, is Shortness of Breath to be looked on as any Thing but the Effect of some Disease causing great Weakness, which on the least Motion is followed with Difficulty of breathing.

IT may seem strange that this Disease, *viz.* a Dropsey, should be so grossly mistaken ; when the Condition of a Woman, near the Time of her Delivery, is not more apparent to the Eye, than that of an hydropical Person. However, this shews what great Rea-

fons there are to set the Symptoms of Diseases in as clear a Light as possible.

I SHALL, in the Prosecution of this Subject, take Notice, in a very brief Manner, of the Fluids in human Bodies : a Point very necessary to be understood, because they are the Seat of all Distempers ; whereas the solid Parts are only passive. —— Little, that I can find, has been said of this Matter, though the right Understanding of it is of so great Use in the Art of Healing.

INSTEAD of giving us such necessary Preliminaries, many lay the whole Stress of curing Diseases upon the Number of their Receipts, stuffing their Books with long and tedious Prescriptions ; which is little better than teaching us how to cure People, before we know the Nature of their Distemper.

THIS brings to my Mind a Saying of that good and truly honest Man Dr. Sydenham : — *Medicæ Artis pompa & dignitas non tam formularum Concinnitate & Elegantiâ, quam morborum Curatione cernitur.*

THE late famous Dr. Radcliff was of Opinion, That it was expedient for young Gentlemen, entering upon our Profession, to travel ; and that such as pursued their Studies

at Home, could not (allowing they have had the Advantages of an Academical Education) improve themselves equally with those that spend many Years Abroad, and make good Use of their Time. — This was his Reason for settling annual Pensions upon some young Physicians, that they might be in a Capacity to travel.

PERHAPS he had done better, if he had obliged those Gentlemen to practice Physick, at least ten Years, before their setting out for foreign Parts : They would then have been much more capable of making such Observations, as might be of singular Use to them ; and 'tis farther my Opinion, That if he had ordered them to visit the most intemperate Climates, where all acute Diseases are the most violent, they would have returned Masters of greater Knowledge and Experience, than they can ever acquire by only passing through the most healthy Parts of *Europe*, which seems more like travelling for the sake of their own Health, than that of other People.

IF Travelling be necessary to make an accomplished Physician, I am very sure that I

have travelled more than all the Physicians in *Great Britain* put together.

BUT I am going a little out of my Way, and shall therefore return to what I at first proposed; wherein, if I fall short, I shall yet please my self in my sincere Design of being beneficial to Mankind. All I desire of those who find fault with my Performance, is, to produce a better in its Room.

IN the Account I give of Diseases, I shall endeavour to be as short and intelligible as possible. — The usual and general Division of Distempers, is into Chronical and Acute, and each Branch of them is subdivided into many particular ones. — The most common I hope to describe in so plain a Manner, that even the Patient himself shall be able to give a proper Name to his Disease.

To begin then with the Chronical: — Which as they are the most difficult to be remedied, so are they many Times equally difficult to be known. — Of these the most common, and most painful, (though, I think, not the hardest to be cured,) is the Gout.

## Gout, or Arthritis.

THIS has various Names, according to the Parts affected: 'Tis term'd *Podagra* when in the Foot, *Chiragra* when in the Hand, *Gonegra* when in the Knee, *Sciatica* when in the Hip.

'Tis strange to see how often Physicians call this Distemper a Rheumatism, and a Rheumatism the Gout. — The Difference between them will plainly appear from the Description I shall give of these two Distempers.

Of the several Names above set down, a regular Gout may most properly be term'd *Podagra*, because it begins in the first Joint of the Great Toe, and that usually about Midnight; where, after it has rack'd the Patient forty-eight Hours with a violent fix'd Pain, a small Tumour begins to appear, increasing gradually; after that, an Inflammation, and then the Violence of the Pain abates.

THE first Fit may last a Fortnight or three Weeks; but a great Weakness, and Tenderness

ness in the Part afflicted, remains much longer.

THE Patient may feel no more of this Disease for two or three Years, or at soonest a Twelvemonth: But what adds much to the Misfortune of this Distemper, is, That every Fit becomes more painful, and the Paroxysms more frequent and lasting.

THE Gouty Matter increasing, rises to the Ankles and Knees, which, as was said before, fwell with Inflammation: This Degree of the Distemper, by some Authors, is called *Morbus Articularis*, and is always attended with a symptomatical Fever; for as the Pains wear off, the Fever abates.

THUS it takes its progress, increasing by Degrees, till the poor Patient is lacerated, and torn to pieces; Chalk-Stones working out of the Joints, attended with other melancholly Circumstances.

IT must be observ'd, towards the latter End of this Disease, when the Fluids are almost wholly changed into gouty Matter, the Fits are not so regular, nor the Pains so violent; but then the Patient is seldom free from them.

PHYSICIANS have been much mistaken about the Cause of this Distemper: That it is Matter, appears from the Tumours and Inflammation that attend it; but the Difficulty lies to find out the *Nature* of this Matter.

— I shall venture to affirm 'tis an Alkali: That the Chalk-Stones that work out of the Joints are such, appears from the Fermentation occasioned by Acids, which in small Quantities cause Pains in Gouty Persons: These Pains proceed from the Acids meeting with a contrary Quality, whereby a preternatural Fermentation is raised in the distempered Part; and this creates a Heat and Burning, the Heat being an Effect of that Fermentation or Motion, according to the Learned Dr. *Willis*, whose Treatise of Fermentation I prefer to his other Works: If I mistake not, he gives this Definition of it, viz. “*Motus Intestinus ad perfectionem alicujus Corporis, vel ad Internacionem ejusdem.*”

THERE have been so many unsuccessful Attempts made to master this Disease, that Patients have very little Faith left, and (as they commonly say) have no Hopes from any Thing but Patience and warm Flannel: But

with

with Submission, keeping the Part warm is wrong, because 'tis *proprium Caloris attrahere*; and does, beyond doubt, attract gouty Matter to the Parts.

NOTWITHSTANDING the many fruitless Attempts that have been made to cure this miserable Distemper, Providence has in this, as well as in all other Diseases, left Means for our Recovery, which in many Instances I am able to make appear. I shall refer to one where the Curious may be satisfied: The Coachman of the Right Honourable the Lord Viscount *St. John* had a long and tedious Fit of the Gout, and was hardly able to stir without Crutches: I gave him a very pleasant easy Sudorific; which had its desired Effect: --- Insomuch that the Day following, he walked from *Albemarle-Street* to *Cecil-Street*, to give me Thanks. He came to me without the Help of a Stick, and with strait Shoes on: The Swelling was entirely gone: He affirmed that he was never better in his Life; and that he was able to walk from one End of the Town to the other. This is about fifteen Years ago.

THE Fellow has never had any Return since, though he was much afflicted with it many

many Years before.---- It may be asked, Will he never have it again? The same Question may be asked of any Fever, (except some few with Eruptions;) for many Persons are very subject to Fevers every Spring; yet I presume no Body will say a Patient was not cured of a Fever he had fifteen Years since, though he should happen to have a Fever again this Year.

It will, I hope, at least, be granted, That such long Intervals add much to the Comfort of Life; and I am confident there is no Body can have the Gout to that Degree, but that there may be a Rebate given to his Pains. He may find great Relief without Opiates, or painful Remedies, which I am a Stranger to, and very much dislike.

“ TAKE Tamarinds half an Ounce, Leaves  
 “ of Senna two Drams, Rheubarb one Dram,  
 “ boil them in Water to three Ounces; strain  
 “ them off, and dissolve in them of Manna,  
 “ and the purging Syrup of Roses, each one  
 “ Ounce, Syrup of Buck-Thorn and Elixir  
 “ Proprietatis, each two Drams.---- Drink  
 “ Posset-Drink, or thin Gruel, between  
 “ Motions. --- Taking this once or twice a  
 Week,

“ Week, will lessen the Gouty Matter, and  
“ break the Force of the Fits.”

“ TAKE Opium one Ounce, Salt-Petre  
“ and Tartar vitriolated, each four Ounces,  
“ Ipocacuana one Ounce, Liquorish one  
“ Ounce. Put the Salt-Petre and Tartar  
“ into a red-hot Mortar, stirring them with  
“ a Spoon till they have done flaming. ---  
“ Then powder them very fine; after that  
“ slice in your Opium; grind these to a  
“ Powder, and then mix the other Powders  
“ with these. Dose from forty to sixty or  
“ seventy Grains in a Glass of White-Wine  
“ Posset, going to Bed. ---- Covering up  
“ warm, and drinking a Quart or three Pints  
“ of the Posset-Drink while sweating.”

IN two or three Hours, at farthest, the Patient will be perfectly free from Pain; and though before not able to put one Foot to the Ground, 'tis very much if he cannot walk the next Day. When it is taken, keep your Bed till next Day Noon. This Remedy may be taken once a Week, or once a Month.

Mynsycht's Elixir of Vitriol taken often in large Quantities, most certainly destroys Gouty Matter; yet for some Time it may cause Pain; but taken in its due Latitude, if

Water

Water will quench Fire, it must in the End have its desired Effect.

IT has been objected to one Part of my Book, That I have a great Dislike to *Opiats*; and yet, that in the Prescription immediately following, I have set down an Opiat. Some Apothecaries have desired their Patients to make their Wills, and settle their Affairs, before they venture upon so large a Dose as I have recommended, which is from Forty to Seventy Grains. As monstrous as they may represent this, I can produce undeniable Proofs, where a Patient of mine has taken no less a Quantity than an Hundred Grains, and yet has appear'd abroad the next Day.

THIS Notion of theirs proceeds entirely from their Ignorance, and from the Want of knowing the Nature of those Ingredients that are mix'd up with it, for they naturally weaken the Power of the Opium.

I WOULD not have the Reader imagine, that I am an Enemy to Opiats; I only look upon a constant and uninterrupted Use of them to be pernicious. As I cannot fail of having the greatest Veneration for the Memory of my old Master Dr. *Sydenham*, I often

ten remember his Observations, especially upon Opiats, which is as follows :

*Sine Papaveribus, sine Opiatis, & Medicamentis, ex iis Confectis, manca & clauda, esset Medicina.*

IN my former Editions, in that Chapter which treats of the *Gout*, I omitted a Remedy against this Disease, when it is in the Stomach, which I have now added, and is as follows :

“ Take two Drams of *Venice Treacle* diſſolv’d in a Glass of Good Wine : After drinking it, and going to Bed immediately upon it, the Patient will find himself much easier in two Hours, and entirely free from it in sixteen. The best Topical or Outward Remedy is a raw Beef-Stake.”

SINCE *Quicksilver* has so generally prevail’d, there are ſeveral Persons, who, tho’ before they had constantly two Fits in a Year, ſince the taking of *Mercury*, have escaped a Fit for two, three, or four Years together.

## DROPSY, called Hydrops.

THE are three Sorts of Dropsies ; the most common and most fatal, is the Ascites. This Distemper is often many Years contracting ; in some near twenty Years, according to the best Judgment that can be made. One or two Instances may make this clear.

Mr. WILLIAM STAUNTON of *Hampton*, near *Hampton-Court*, formerly a Chancery Clerk, of *Furnival's Inn*, was for Twenty Years afflicted with a violent Asthma : He had many Physicians, but found no Help : At last he had that Species of the Dropsy which I am going to describe. His Distemper reduced him to that Weakness, and made him so corpulent and unweildy, that he was not able to turn in his Bed, nor lie but on one Side, insomuch that the Flesh was worn off the Hip and Shoulder : It was expected a Mortification would ensue. — In this Condition Mrs. *Staunton* ask'd, If I conceiv'd any Hopes of him ? I answer'd, There was but little Room for Hope ; yet if she pleased to

try the Force of the Medicine I should prescribe, she might be assured there was no Danger in it.

HE took it every Night and Morning, as I usually give it.—He has told me since, that it constantly brought away from a Gallon to five Quarts of Water.—Taking this daily, it must be supposed he was soon freed from his Waters.

HE has been clear of his Asthma ever since, and enjoys a better State of Health than he has done for twenty Years past. This was in the sixty-seventh Year of his Age, yet he has at present as florid a Complexion as any Man of twenty.

I CONCLUDE, that he had a Collection of Waters in his Breast, which caused the Asthma.

I HAD another Patient, who had a White Swelling, as the *Surgeons* call it, in both Knees. He came to Town, and applied himself to Mr. *Bocheer* ; who, like an honest Man, did little to him, but advised him to go to the *Bath* ; which he did for near twenty Years, as the Gentleman told me: But in the End this appeared to be an Ascites. I was called to him ; and upon purging off the

Wa-

Waters, those White Swellings totally disappeared. He told me, he had not had so good a Command of his Legs for Twenty Years past.

MANY Instances of the like Nature I could produce ; but I take these two to be sufficient for my present Purpose.

HENCE it is evident what slow Paces this Distemper many Times makes.

SOME Nicety will be required to give such a Description of this Disease, as to make it known in its Approaches. 'Tis easily prevented, though very difficult to be cured when it comes to an Height.

IT begins with a Thirst, which insensibly grows on the Patient. The Inside of the Hands grows dry, with a more than common Hardness, and the Patient is attended with an unusual Heat. All the Glands of Secretion begin to fall short of performing their due Functions, till at last Transpiration ceases. The Urine decreases much in Quantity, and is often high-colour'd. An Inability to Motion increases as the Body fills, with greaSh ortness of Breath, and Loss of Appetite.

THESE are the several Symptoms of an approaching Dropsy, which usually shews itself first in the Legs. This Distemper may be coming on several Years, as has been above noted, and for want of a due Examination of the Patient, it has been too often taken for some other Disease, which has proved fatal to many People.

To describe a confirmed Ascites, is no more than to set the foregoing in a clear Light.

THE Thirst is more intense ; Urine less in Quantity, higher coloured, coming near to the Water made in a Jaundice ; Shortness of Breath to that Degree, that there is no lying down in Bed ; an Inability to all Motion ; a total Loss of Appetite ; loose Stools frequent, but in small Quantities. The Legs, Thighs, and all Parts of the Body, are full of Water ; which, with the Addition of a symptomatical Jaundice, make up the frightful and merciless Retinue that attend this great Evil.

AFTER all, I shall venture to say, That let me but come to People as early in this Distemper as they generally apply for Relief from other Physicians, and it shall be cured with as much Certainty as any other Gentle-

man may cure a Distemper he thinks himself most Master of.—I am surprized that the Paracentesis, or Tap, should be so frequently used in this fatal Disease.—I should be glad to know if one in five hundred has been cured by it.—It rather confirms the Disease, and often renders it incurable, while the poor Patient's Life is protracted in Misery and Dispair; so that it may well be said,

*Graviora morbis patimur Remedia,  
Nec vita tanti est, vivere ut possis, mori.*

*Such Aids new Fuel to your Pain supply;  
Who values Life, if he must hourly die?*

## *The TYMPANY, Timpanites.*

**A**NOTHER Species of Dropfy, to which the fair Sex are only liable, proceeds from their frequent Miscarriages and hard Labours: Besides, as they are of a much finer Texture of Body than Men, they are more subject to the Passions of the Mind, which have often been the Cause of this Distemper.

THIS is part Wind, part Water, swelling the Abdomen, or Belly; only. The Muscles waste so in this Disease, that the Patient becomes a meer Skeleton, with Loss of Appetite; Thirst, but in a more remiss Degree than in the Ascites; Urine in small Quantities, but often of a healthy Colour. — This may be cured pretty much in the same Way with the Ascites.

### ANASARCA.

THIS is another Species of Dropfy, plainly differing from the Ascites and Tympamy. The Symptoms are vastly more unsettled: The Swellings in the two former are fix'd; in this they very often shift, and for the most Part affect only the Muscles. As for Example: The Patient shall swell on one Side of the Body; and in a short Time the Tumor shall quit that Part, and appear on the other Side of the Body; and in like Manner hift from one Thigh, Leg, or Arm, to the other.

THIS Disease is not so common as the Ascites or Tympamy, and is much easier cured

cured. Yet Mr. *Towne*, one of the King's Gardiners, died of it under Dr. *Radcliff*'s Care. — A Gentleman carried me to that unfortunate Man; but the Doctor was so confident of saving him by the wonderful Panacæa Blisters, that I was not listened to. The Blisters, instead of proving Remedie, only gave the Patient Pain, without affording him any Help; so that in a short Time after he died.

“ TAKE Steel prepared with Sulphur and  
“ crude Antimony, each one Ounce, Diagri-  
“ dium four Ounces: Make a fine Power  
“ of these; then add as much of any Sy-  
“ rup as will make a soft Electuary. —  
“ Take a large Spoonful at Night going to  
“ Bed, and another in the Morning, stirring  
“ it well from the Bottom, increasing or lef-  
“ sening the Dose as you see Occasion. —  
“ For if one Spoonful taken over Night,  
“ brings aways two or three Quarts, it need  
“ not be repeated in the Morning. —  
“ You must not drink during the Opera-  
“ tion of this Phyfick, as in other Purges;  
“ for if you pour in too much Liquor, it  
“ will destroy the End of purging, and you

“ will find your self just where you  
“ were.”

WHEN your Waters are off, you may repeat your Purge once in four or five Days ; then once a Week ; and so on, to once a Fortnight, and once a Month, till your Blood has recovered its due Tone.

You must avoid all Spoon-Meats, Fruits, and Garden-Stuff, of what Kind soever. — And be sure not to exceed a Pint and a half of Liquor in twenty four Hours ; for if you drink, your Thirst will never abate. By this Method, and God’s Blessing, I have cured Hundreds in my Time.

THIS Method will serve either in a Tympany or Anasarca.

SEVERAL Physicians, I have been informed, have made great Objections to the Prescription I have set down for the Cure of this Distemper, and are pleased to affirm at Random, that one Dose which I have prescribed, would infallibly be the Death of any Patient. Now I will take upon me to affirm, That I have often given it in much larger Quantities ; and that it has been so far from being attended with any ill Consequences, that it

has

has produced all the good Effects to be desired.

It is a very great Hardship, that I must be subject to the Caprice of every Pretender to Physick: If I have really prescribed any Thing that is dangerous to Mankind, let the College of Physicians call me to an Account for it.

I do not know what Observations the Gentlemen of our Faculty have made; but I affirm, That an Hydropical Patient will dispense with Physick, that has at least treble the Strength of what is given in any other Distemper.

UPON those Days, when the Patient does not take a Purge, I prescribe one Dram of common Nitre, made into a Bolus with a Conserve of Hips, to be taken Morning and Night. This will very much abate his Thirst, and probably provoke Urine.

## DIA B E T E S.

THIS is a very fatal Disease, but rarely seen ; yet in one Day I was called to two Patients that were afflicted with it. —

*Riverius* says, he never saw more than one Person labouring under this Distemper, in all his Practice.

It arises from breaking the Compages or Tenor of the Blood.

THE Description follows : 'Tis attended with a small Fever, Loss of Appetite, intense Thirst, a great Dejection of the animal Spirits, profuse Quantities of Urine of a Violet Scent, with a thin oily Substance swimming on the Surface of it. When all these Symptoms meet, they constitute this Distemper.

THE Sort of Water described, is very common in what Physicians call scorbutick Cases. — Upon which, after the Learned Dr. *Wills* has made a very long Harangue about hot Scurvy and cold Scurvy, I must own my Capacity too weak to comprehend his Meaning ; nor do I believe the Disease owed its Name to any Thing, but that when

the

the Physicians met with a Distemper they knew little of, they called it a scurvy one.

ONE Mr. *Jonathan Keate*, some Time after Surgeon to the Hospital at *King's-Town* in *Jamaica*, was so far gone in a Diabetes, that he was not able to get out of his Cabin. — I was on Board with some Company, who told me the Surgeon of the Ship lay dangerously ill, and desired to see me. — I soon perceived his Distemper, and sent him from Shore what I thought proper. In three or four Days he came to *Port-Royal*, to return Thanks for the great Service I had done him. He did, as we say, *pancratice valere*, and so continued. — This is thirty Years since. — About six Years since, I saw him in Town; he lodged in *St. Martin's-Lane*, and was then just come from *Barcelona*.

I SHALL only give one Instance more: A Person, recommended to me by his Grace the late Duke of *Richmond*, was so weak in this Distemper, that he could hardly stand. — I ordered him ten Days after to meet me at the Duke's; which he accordingly did; and

gave

gave his Grace Thanks for being perfectly recovered. He lived on *Tower-Hill*; and, if I mistake not, was an House-Carpenter; but I have forgot his Name.

THERE needs nothing more to be done for the Cure of this Disease, which has hitherto puzzled Physicians in all Ages, than to drink a quarter of a Pint of Allom Posset-Drink, first and laſt, made as ſtrong as your Stomach will bear it. — This I have experienced for Thirty-five Years, and do not remember that it ever failed.

## CONSUMPTION, or Phtifis.

THOUGH this be a Chronical Disease, it is also inflammatory; and I know of no other Chronical Distemper that is ſo.

IT begins with a violent Cough, and is always attended with an inflamed Mass of Blood, except in convulsive Cases; and as the Lungs are all Bronchia, or little *Air-Bladders* of the *Aspera Arteria*, when we inſpire the inflamed Part, or what we ſee on the Top of the Blood, which the Physicians term *Pleuritical*, is strained from the Mass, which being

being left in those *Air-Bladders*, occasions a great Shortness of Breath, till by violent Coughing, or frequent Succussions of the Lungs, it is brought off. — If this Matter continues, it inflames the Lungs, till at last they are imposthumated ; and then the Patient's Case becomes desperate.

THIS Disease commonly proceeds from Cold ; which increasing , the Patient complains first of a great Soreness in his Breast, Difficulty of Breathing, Loss of Appetite, a great Heat and Dryness in the Palms of his Hands, with frequent and sudden Flushings in the Face ; according to that of *Hippocrates*, *Rubor pertinax & saturatus in Genis pulmonem indicat inflammatum.*

As this Disease gathers Strength, colliquating Sweats come on towards Morning ; then a Diarrhæa or Looseness ; the Fingers-Ends are swelled, and a few Days before Death, the Legs swell, which is the last Symptom.

THE good Dr. *Sydenham* wonderfully commends Riding in this Distemper ; and he says, “ *Hoc sancte affero, quod neque mercurius in Lue Venerea neque Cortex Peruvianus in intermittentibus efficaciores*

“ res extent quam in Phthisi curanda exerci-  
 “ tium jam laudatum. — Speaking of Ri-  
 “ ding, *Modo æger curet ut linteamina lecti*  
 “ *sunt probe arefacta, atque etiam ut satis*  
 “ *longa Itinera emetiantur.*”

BUT, with Deference to my old Friend's Judgment, I have known frequent Bleeding in small Quantities, do more good than Riding. I shall set down one Case, of which any Person may satisfy himself.

A NEPHEW of Sir George Caswall's, whose Lungs were most apparently im- posthumated, from the corrupt and fœtid Matter that proceeded from them, had those colliquating Sweats, with a Diarrhœa, or Looseness, and brought up large Quantities of Blood every Day, almost equal to a *Vomica Pulmonum*.

His Muscles were almost entirely wasted ; and so very weak, that he could hardly walk alone. I order'd him to bleed every other Day.— He soon visibly grew better. — I sent him to the Cold Bath ; which he used to very great Advantage ; so that he soon grew healthy and strong, and fuller of Flesh than ever.

WHEN Mr. *Pettit* blooded him, he would often say, he could not possibly live four and twenty Hours.

As this is an inflammatory Disease, all Methods of Cure ought to be avoided, except such as abate the Inflammation; which I may venture to say, is usually increased by the vast Quantities of Oils and Syrups prescrib'd: And this is the chief Reason that Physicians have had so little Success in Consumptions. They allow the Patient to use a strengthening Diet, and indulge him too much with Wine, Gravies, and the like, contrary to a known Maxim in Physick. —— *Impura corpora, quo plus nutries, eo magis laedes.*

ANOTHER Cause of Consumptions is from an Empyema, which is an Imposthummation on the Pleura; as when Pleurisies or Peripneumonies are not blooded off, as long as any poignant or shooting Pains remain, there is an infallible Indication for Bleeding. 'Twas said, the Lord *Sunderland* could not die for want of Bleeding, having lost seventy Ounces: Whereas my next-door Neighbour had a Servant seized with a Pleurisy, who lost two hundred and sixty Ounces of Blood before his Pain left him. —— This Mr. *Pyle*, a

very honest and eminent Surgeon, will attest.

THE Man since enjoys a perfect State of Health.

ONE Mr. *William Masters*, an eminent Surgeon at *Evesham*, in *Worcestershire*, was so far gone in a Consumption, that he was not able to stand alone. I advised him by all Means to lose six Ounces of Blood every Day for a Fortnight, if he lived so long; then every other Day, then every third Day, and fifth Day for the same Time. This was in the Month of *November*. The *March* following, he rode from *Evesham* to *Bristol* in one Day, which is forty-seven long Miles, to give me Thanks for his Recovery. — He lived many Years after. His Relations all died in Consumptions. This was the first Experiment I made of Bleeding in this Disease; and have cured many since by the same Method.

ONE *Ambrose Clark*, a Servant to Sir *John Dutton* of *Sherbourn*, in *Gloucestershire*, was so very weak in a Consumption, that they entirely despaired of his Life. He was bled at least fifty Times, and in a short Time recovered so very well, that he enjoys a bet-

a better State of Health than ever he did before.

“ TAKE Anniseeds finely powder’d, Saf-  
“ fron of Steel, each half an Ounce, made  
“ into Pills, with *Lucatella*’s Balsam: Take  
“ five of these every Morning, and at five a-  
“ Clock in the Afternoon, drinking a large  
“ Draught of Water acidulated with *Myn-  
“ sicht*’s Elixir of Vitriol.— After each  
“ Dose, Riding is of singular Use, and Cold-  
“ bathing; but above all, frequent bleeding  
“ in small Quantities: For, as is before ob-  
“ serv’d, whatever keeps the Lungs cool, is  
“ the only Way to cure Consumptions; and  
“ I have of late experienced, that Quicksil-  
“ ver is the most beneficial Thing in all the  
“ World for the Lungs, taking one Ounce  
“ every Morning.”

# A S T H M A.

Of this there are two Species; the one convulsive, the other proceeding from foul Masses of Blood.

D THESE

THESE are not hard to be distinguish'd: The Convulsive generally has its Paroxysms, or Fits; and though you may cough with greater Violence, and find a much greater Difficulty of breathing, though you spit only a frothy Substance, yet when the Paroxysm is over, the Patient finds not much Disorder.

“ TAKE Castor one Dram, Salt of Steel half a Dram, made into very small Pills, with Extract of Rue: These you may take every Hour, till the Convulsion is abated, drinking three Spoonfuls of the following Julep after each Dose. — Take of Black-Cherry, and Penny-Royal Water, each an Ounce; of Rue and compound Briony Waters, each four Ounces, with a small Quantity of Sugar, made into a Julep. — Or a Toad dried and powdered, made into Pills, and taken as above, is a most excellent Remedy. — But we are so wise as to take it for granted, that a Toad is a very poisonous Animal: Our Mothers instill into us such an Aversion against the poor innocent and harmless Creature, that whenever we see him, most certainly he is

“ is stoned to Death : Whereas, rightly  
 “ considered, he is a very great Blessing be-  
 “ stowed on Mankind.”

IN a sanguinary Asthma, or what proceeds from a foul Mass of Blood, the Patient is seldom free ; though at some Times much better than others. As when the Winds are Easterly, the Patient soon finds a sensible Alteration for the worse. — Nay, I have been told, by those that keep their Beds, that they have been sensible, in a few Minutes, when the Wind has shifted to the East ; they cough, and spit a digested Matter.

THIS Disease rarely seizes People before they are of an advanced Age ; which is the Reason it does not cause Consumptions ; for the *Parenchyma*, or Substance of the Lungs, is then grown so very hard, that it rarely admits of Putrefaction. — The Cure of this last Asthma does not much vary from that in Consumptions.

WHEN it proceeds from a foul Mass of Blood, it ought to be treated as in a Consumption ; only purge once or twice a Week, with the Purge set down in the Gout.

IN the removing of this Disease, I don't remember an Instance of my failing in the Cure of any Person who has apply'd to me for Relief. — I make use of this easy Remedy :

“ An Ounce of Quicksilver every Day, to be taken at what Hour the Patient pleases, and a Spoonful of the Gas of Sulphur, in a large Draught of Spring-water, at Five o’Clock in the Afternoon, and at Bed-time.”

## JAUNDICE, or Icterus.

THIS is very visible from the Yellowness of the Eyes and Skin, black Urine, and white Stools, accompanied with great Sickness and Faintings, but little Pain. If the Excrements are not white, it may be feared the Case is complicated; and it proves a Symptomatical Jaundice; which is never to be cured by Ictericks, or such Medicines as are commonly used in the Jaundice.

THIS Disease proceeds from an Obstruction of the *Ductus Coledochus*, which leads from the Gall to the Intestine *Duodenum*;

the

the Bile not passing there, leaves the Ordure white, which otherwise takes its Colour from it ; but mixing with the Blood, tinctures the Skin, as the Hair on the Head or Body takes its Dye from the Fluids.

PARACELSUS, in his Treatise *De Signatura Rerum*, very much commends the inner Bark of Barberries, Turmeric, Rheubarb, and all Plants of a yellow Cast, in the Cure of this Disease : But they are too weak, as has been sufficiently experienced long since. — He likewise commends the Arbor Tremula in Agues, the Pulmonaria Maculosa in Consumptions, Trachelium in sore Throats and Quinseys ; and so goes on. Neither is this Method wholly laid aside by the modern Physicians, who have Recourse to the Teeth of a Bear, and the Jaw-bone of a Pike, and the black Tips of Crabs Claws ; which being all pointed, they take it for granted they must be very efficacious Remedies in a Pleurisy : And in Consumptions they have a no-less favourite Prescription, call'd *Calves-Pluck Water*, with four Quarts of which they almost drown their Patient every Day. For my own part, I cannot imagine what they propose, unless this is done out of Kindness

to the Apothecary's Apprentices, that they may, with the Assistance of Bacon and Sprouts, *q. s.* live comfortably upon the Pluck, and regale themselves for some Time afterwards; and by this salutary Method infallibly eradicate all Seeds of a Consumption in themselves, though they have an hereditary Right to it. — I mention this, to shew on what weak Foundations we often venture our Lives.

THIS Disease commonly ends in some violent Hæmorrhage; either by Urine, Stool, or a Vomica Pulmonum, which soon terminates in Death. — All this may be imputed to that Alkali Bile, which tears the very Arteries in Picces, and renders the Patient incurable.

“ ONLY take eight Grains of Turbith  
 “ Mineral at Four or Five in the Afternoon,  
 “ drinking thin Gruel, or Poffet-drink, be-  
 “ tween Motions. — After four or five  
 “ Days repeat the Turbith, as above. —  
 “ In the intermediate Days take half a large  
 “ Spoonful of *Mynsicht's* Elixir of Vitriol  
 “ in half a Pint of Spring-Water, three

“ Times

“ Times a Day. — This cures any original  
“ Jaundice I ever met with.”

AT the *Bath*, I have seen Gentlemen so far gone in this Disease, that their Faces have been of an exact Lemon Colour. — I have been much concern'd, to think how small a Progress has been made in the Art of Healing.

## STONE, or Nephritis.

THE Stone is an exquisite Pain on the Ureters, or Neck of the Bladder, — and is caused by a cold Stomach, hot Reins, and ill Digestion; which sends Crudities into the Blood by the Lacteals. These Crudities pass to the Kidneys by the Emulgent Arteries; and not being so readily received by the Emulgent Veins, make Lodgement in the Pelvis, or Cavity of the Kidneys, where, by their Heat, they soon petrify: And thus Gravel is form'd; but never in the Bladder, as some conceive. This Gravel, or small Stones, entering the Ureters, long and nar-

row Passages of exquisite Sense, cause great Pains, with violent Vomitings; and the same again, when they enter the Neck of the Bladder and Urethra ; the Patient frequently complaining of Pains in his Thigh ; which I take to proceed from the Muscle *Psoas*, which reaches from the Reins thither.

ALL the Relief we can afford, is to dilate and lubricate the Urinal Passages, that the Stone or Gravel may pass with less Difficulty.

IF any of the small Gravel should accidentally adhere to any part of the Bladder, it, like a Snow-ball, collects the finer Part of the Sand, till by its Weight it falls from its Cyftis on the Neck of the Bladder; and then nothing is to be done but Lithotomy, or Cutting.

THIS brings melancholy Reflections on the unhappy Patient, since all the Endeavours of Physicians, Quacks, and Empyricks, to find out a Cure, have proved ineffectual. —

Many Trials have been made to find out a Dissolvent for the Stone; and such have been found out as will break the Stone, being laid in your Hand. — But as nothing but an excrementitious Serum enters the Bladder,

the Powers of every Medicine must be vastly weaken'd before they reach the Seat of the Distemper.

THERE is little to be done to ease the Patient in the Fits, or Paroxysms, but to use such Medicines as lubricate, and open the Passages; by which Means the Stone or Gravel will pass more easily. — As Balsam of *Capivy*, taking a large Spoonful in any Vehicle, whether Wine or Water. I know it is a common Method to give strong Diureticks in such Cases. — Now, the Coats of the Ureters being nervous, by such Irritations contract themselves, and hold the Stone more closely; whereas the Weight of the Urine is sufficient to carry the Stone before it, if the Passages were sufficiently dilated. — I prescribe the inmost Coat of the Gizzards of Pigeons finely powder'd, to be taken Night and Morning, one Scruple in a Glass of White-Wine: But you may please to try one Ounce of Quicksilver every Morning for one Month. I have known this do Wonders. Clysters often afford some Relief, as Turpentine opened with the Yolk of an Egg, and Urine added to it.

“ TAKE Peach-Leaves in their Perfection,  
 “ and dry them in the Sun, then break them  
 “ pretty small, and use them as Tea ; but  
 “ only half the Quantity.”

I HAVE known it do very extraordinary Things in the Gravel, and equally beneficial to Gouty Persons.

## PALSEY, or Paralyfis.

I AM now entering on nervous Diseases : As to that Part of them which compose the several Species of Palsey, it will be Matter of no great Difficulty to distinguish and explain them. Nevertheless, I am sensible, as I launch farther into this Field, and treat of nervous Diseases at large, there will be great Nicety required to give their several Descriptions, and make them so plain, that one may not be taken for the other ; or even that they may not be taken for acute Cases, which may prove of the worst Consequence to the Patient.

## HEMIPLEGIE, or Hemiplexia.

THIS Species of the Palsey affects but one Side ; which is owing to the doubling of the Dura Mater, called the *Falx*, by which the Brain is divided ; so that, unless in extraordinary Cases, the Paralysis is seldom met with. The great Author of Nature has afforded us Duplicates in almost every Particular ; so that in case one becomes useleſs, or lost, yet the other in a great measure supplies the Defect. Thus we have two Eyes, two Lobes of the Lungs, two Kidneys, two Testicles ; so that one Part remaining, Vision, Respiration, Secretion, and Generation, are all perform'd. The *Mahometan* Women, in the greatest Part of *Asia*, destroy one Testicle : No doubt they find their Account in it, because the Males make their Addresses more frequently, when there is a less Expence of Spirits at each Evacuation. The Hemiplegie and Paralysis are both cured by such Medicines as open the Obstructions of the Nerves ; then the Animal Spirits recover a free Passage, and all Sensation returns.

IN Recent Cases, this Distemper is soon cured.

I WAS called to Mrs. *Potts*, the Mother of Mr. *John Potts* the Oilman. In the seventieth Year of her Age, she was seized with this Hemiplegie, falling down with an entire Loss of Sense and Motion on one Side: Yet, by what I order'd her, she was perfectly well in ten Days, and so continued many Years after. Many Instances of the like Nature I could produce, but they are at some Distance from *London*.

“ IN this Case I blister the Arm, the Leg, “ and the Thigh of the Side affected. I give “ Mercurius dulcis, and Cinnabar of Anti- “ mony, each eight or ten Grains, which I “ repeat every four or five Days. The in- “ termediate Days, take Conserve of Roman “ Wormwood, Conserve of the outward “ Rinds of *Seville* Oranges, each one Ounce; “ Angelica, Nutmegs, and Ginger candied, “ each half an Ounce; Powder of Wake- “ Robin three Drams, made into an Elec- “ tuary with Syrup of Citron. Take the “ Quantity of a large Nutmeg in the Morn- “ ing, and at Five of the Clock in the After-

“ noon,

“ noon, drinking six Spoonfuls of the following Tincture after.”

“ TAKE the Roots of Master-wort, Elecampane, Angelica, each one Ounce ; Leaves of Common Wormwood, Horehound, Germander, each one Handful ; Tops of Centaury and St. John’s Wort, each half an Handful ; Juniper Berries two Ounces ; the Rinds of nine Seville Oranges : Infuse these in three Quarts of White-Wine, straining it off as you use it. The same Method cures both Kinds of Palsey.”

## St. VITUS’s DANCE ; or Chorea Sancti Viti.

**T**HIS is a Palsey of a more remiss Kind than the foremention’d : I never knew any but young Persons seized with it. If it begins in the Arm ; it soon affects the Leg on the same Side ; and so *vice versa*. It never wears off without proper Means.

THIS

THIS admits of the same Method of Cure as the Palsey.

THERE is another Species of the Palsey, known by the Name of the *Shaking Palsey*. 'Tis commonly the Effect of Old-age, Intemperance, or a Malum Stamen Vitæ: It ever proceeds from a Deficiency of Animal Spirits.

## APOPLEXY.

THIS, of all others, deserves to have a Place amongst the Acute Diseases: But, as I am going to describe those of the Head, this Distemper, so remarkable, and so fatal, cannot be omitted.

WHATEVER affects the Head, must be either inflammatory, convulsive, or accidental, as from Contusions, Bruises, and the like.

THE Patient in an Apoplexy falls suddenly to the Ground, deprived of all Sensation and Motion.

SOME Physicians place this Distemper in the Centre of the Brain; but that, with Submission, can hardly account for the Effect it

pro-

produces: Upon better Consideration it will appear, that both Brains must be affected. That the Cerebrum, or great Brain, is so, appears from the Abolition of Sense and Motion. That the Cerebellum, or little Brain, receives its Stroke likewise, is evident from the great Difficulty of breathing the Patient labours under in this Disease; it being very justly allowed, that this Brain is the Cause of all involuntary Motions, of which Breathing must be one. 'Tis not easy to conceive that this Distemper is so common as is pretended, when in more than forty-seven Years Practice, I have met with no more than two.

VERY often the Denomination of this Disease is given to Epilepsies, and many Times to high Hypocondraical Effects.

THERE are two Causes of Apoplexies: Blood extravasated in the cortical Part of the Brain; or Convulsions, that immediately obstruct the Animal Spirits.

THE first of these is incurable, it being impossible to draw the extravasated Blood off; the latter, by proper Remedies, has been often removed, and the Patient cured.

“ HIGH

“ HIGH Bleeding may be of Use. Take  
 “ of Mercurius Dulcis, Cinnabar of Anti-  
 “ mony, each one Scruple, made into a Bo-  
 “ lus with Conserve of Hips. Give such  
 “ Things as cause Sneezing ; as the Roots of  
 “ Hellebore, or the Leaves of Assarabacca  
 “ powder'd. Bruise Garlick, which you  
 “ may apply to the Hand, Wrists, and  
 “ Soles of the Feet. Likewise give the  
 “ Julep described in the Convulsive Asthma,  
 “ making it very strong with Spirit of Sal  
 “ Armoniac.”

## FALLING-SICKNESS, or Epilepsy.

THIS Distemper must be convulsive,  
 it being impossible for any inflammato-  
 ry Disease to seize the Patient so surpri-  
 singly ; for he would complain of Verti-  
 goes, or great Pains in the Head, before the  
 Paroxysm ; whereas it gives its Stroke with-  
 out any previous Symptom, much like an  
 Apoplexy, and is too often taken for that  
 Distemper ; as I have before observ'd. This  
 affects

affects likewise both Brains ; which is visible from its taking away all Sense and Motion, and is attended with a Dyspnœa, or Difficulty of breathing, yet not so great as in Apoplexies.

IT plainly differs from other Convulsive Diseases ; since, in this Case, the Patient always falls on his Back, and is thrown down with great Violence, foaming much at the Mouth.

'Tis cured by proper Neuroticks, little differing from the Methods of Cure in other Nervous Cases.

DURING the Paroxysm, what is prescribed in the Apoplexy is not amiss, Bleeding excepted. But to prevent Returns, take as prescribed in the Convulsive Asthma. All Convulsions proceeding pretty much from the same Cause, which we call an Ataxie, or irregular Motion of the Animal Spirits.

# HYPONDRIAICAL and HYSTERICAL DISEASES, Morbus Hypocondriacus & Hystericus.

HERE are two different Names for the same Distemper ; nor can they be distinguish'd otherwise than thus : What we call Hypocondriacal in Men, we term Hysterical in Women. I shall enter only on Hysterical Effects, because they are more common, and more visible in the finer Sex.

THERE is no Disease incident to Human Bodies but these Hysterisms will counterfeit so exactly, that without the greatest Caution the Physician must be deceiv'd.

As when it seizes the Head, it causes violent Pains, Vertigoes, strong Convulsions, with Deprivation of Sense ; when it affects the Eyes with Loss of Sight for the present, great Quantities of pure Water issuing from them.

WHEN the Heart, Palpitations.

WHEN the Lungs, Succussions or Coughing ; in some, much resembling the Barking of a Dog.

WHEN

WHEN the Gullet, or Exphagus, Suffocation, with a great Swelling rising up to the Throat: When the Side, a Pleurify: When the Stomach, Sickness, Pain, and Vomiting.

WHEN the Intestines, the Cholick, often accompanied with a Diarrhœa, or Looseness.

WHEN the Kidneys and Neck of the Bladder, it many Times causes a total Suppression of the Urine, with Pains so like those caused by the Gravel or the Stone, that it is impossible, *nisi à juvantibus & lædentibus*, to distinguish one from the other: When the Womb, all Distempers appear that are incident to it; all the Muscles and Joints are affected with Swellings, follow'd with torturing Pains without Inflammation.

NEITHER are the Teeth or Nails free: The Skin shall be often affected, becoming hot and dry, as in a burning Fever.

THE Scorbicum Cordis, or Pit of the Stomach, is very often much disorder'd with Pains, Tremblings, and Sinkings, which often cause sudden Motions to make Urine; which is not only larger in Quantity than

usual, but pale, and clear as Water from a Fountain.

THE Reason why the Pit of the Stomach is so generally affected, is, because there is a Plexus, or Net of Nerves, meeting there; which is a plain Indication, that all the several Symptoms above mentioned are Nervous.

I PROCEED to enquire into the Cause of so great a Variety of Symptoms, which is from an Ataxie, as we call it, or an irregular Motion of the Animal Spirits, which proceed from a Weakness of them; so that the least Noise, Surprize, Trouble, Anger, or any other Passion of the Mind, immediately brings on the greatest Disorders and Confusions, and makes the Patient presently blown up with Wind in almost every Part.

THIS Disease, which has the several Appearances of almost all acute Diseases, without Matter or Corruption of the Fluids, makes me wonder that Physicians should begin with Bleeding, Vomiting, Purging, and Blistering; and after that, have Recourse to Fontanel, or Issues; then Steel, Bitters, Opiates; and the like; all directly contrary to the Practice before set down. Steel in Sub-

stance

stance is very pernicious to human Bodies : Bitters rarely have their desired Effects : Opiates only palliate, and at the same Time give deeper Root to the Disease. The last Remedies prescribed, are *Bath Waters*, which are really good to repair decay'd Spirits.

THE only Help which can be administer'd in this Disorder, is to fortify the Animal Spirits, and strengthen the Genus Nervosum : Which is done by proper Neuroticks, Depilatives, and such as strengthen the Stomach, and help Digestion. In all these there are no Evacuations ; and yet it may be affirm'd, these are proper Remedies in the above-mention'd Distemper.

I SHALL be very particular in my Account of every Thing that I ever found was of any Relief, or of any Use in these Cases ; which often proceeding from Disorders of the Womb, it is of very great Import to see that Nature does her Part ; that her Returns are regular, neither abounding, nor too sparing ; either of which, often cause Barrenness. In the first, use this Method ;

“ BLEED twelve Ounces from the Arm,  
“ three or four Days before the Return of

“ Nature is expected. Take large Quantities of *Mynsicht's* Elixir of Vitriol, half a large Spoonful in half a Pint of Spring Water, three or four Times a Day; or of *Eaton's* Stiptick. Take of the Plaister *De Minio*, and the Rupture-Plaister, each a like Quantity; two or three Drams of the Loadstone finely powder'd: Put this to the Reins of the Back, avoiding all Meats or Drinks that any way heat or inflame the Blood.”

WHERE Nature is wanting, use the following Receipt:

“ TAKE Salt of Steel one Ounce, Extract of Rue; make these into Pills: Take one going to Bed, and another in the Morning; so increase till you take five Pills Night and Morning, drinking three or four Spoonfuls of the Julep prescribed in the Convulsive Asthma: Or take *Mynsicht's* Tincture of Steel, and Elixir Proprietatis, each a like Quantity. Of this you may take a large Spoonful in half a Pint of Spring Water, first in the Morning, and at Five in the Afternoon, for a Month; Wear a Galbanum Plaister to your Navel. The Pills and Juleps in the Con-

“ vulsive Asthma, taken and repeated every  
 “ two or three Hours, when the Symptoms  
 “ are at the highest, soon put a Stop to them.  
 “ The *Indians* at the *Malucco Islands*, and  
 “ the *Ladies* at *Smyrna*, often take Quick-  
 “ silver as a Remedy against Barrenness. An  
 “ Ounce may be taken once a Day for a  
 “ Month or two.”

## GREEN-SICKNESS, or Chlorosis.

THIS Disease is incident to the Female Sex only ; and that for the most part in the Time of their Virginity. This formerly appear'd near the usual Time of the Coming of the Menstrua ; but since Mothers have been so foolishly desirous for nice Shapes for their Children, and in their tender Years have laced them so very strait, they have not only brought this Distemper on more early, but caused great Crookedness and Deformity of Body. To go farther : It so depraves the Juices of the Stomach, that the true Appetitions of Nature are wholly lost : For what good Stomach call'd for Leather of old Trunks, Woollen or

Linnen Rags, Cork, Nut-Shells, and almost every Thing that a healthy Stomach would nauseate ?

THIS Distemper is attended with great Pains in the Stomach, Shortness of Breath, with an Aversion to all manner of Motion. For these Reasons, one would think, all Mothers should become avow'd Enemies to lacing their Daughters, till they are in their Teens at soonest ; and not to act as if that wise Being, who formed us so perfect in the Womb, was ignorant how to model and shape us while we are growing to Years of Maturity.

THE ill Consequences that daily attend this Practice, might be thought sufficient to deter Parents from it.

LET Mankind take a View of barbarous Countries, as I have done ; contemplate those People, where GOD and Nature have only been : Observe in what Order and Delicacy their Muscles are placed ; how strong their Bodies ; how taper their Limbs. There are no full Shoulders, nor gummy Thighs or Legs, nor any Deformity : All Parts are conspicuous, since the Natives have no more Cloathing than what our First Parents had

during

during the short Time of their Innocence, In some Places, they have not so much as a Fig-Leaf to conceal the Distinctions of either Sex.

THE Reader must pardon a short Digref-  
sion: Since Mention has been made of *Mo-  
thers*, I can't but observe how religiously  
they restrain their Children from eating green  
Fruit, from a Notion that it breeds Worms:  
However singular I may appear in my Op-  
inion, I hold the contrary to be true; green  
Fruit being rather a great Destroyer of Ver-  
min.

'Tis *Ripe Fruits* that breed Worms; for  
it is manifest all animal Corruption turns to  
Vermin; and the same in vegetable Putre-  
faction. Now ripe Fruits being the last  
Fermentation of Perfection, or rather the first  
of Putrefaction, the Vermicular Ovaria must  
be very pregnant; which, when receiv'd in  
a depraved Stomach, may prove as proper a  
Nidus for their Vivification, as the Corrup-  
tion in which they are enveloped.

THE most offensive, and most dangerous of  
all Species of Vermin, are not visible to the  
naked Eye.

FOR some Years last past, I have not so easily assented to several receiv'd Opinions in natural Philosophy, as many others have done, who are ready *Jurare in verba alicuius Magistri*, but have thoroughly weigh'd and consider'd them so far, as to be convinc'd that they are, for the Generality, false. I shall set down one vulgar Error more.

'T IS a generally-receiv'd Notion, nay, even amongst many Gentlemen of the Faculty, the Quicksilver is Poison: If such Persons are not ashamed of their being no better natural Philosophers, I have no Reason to be under Confusion of Face for them.

THEIR Opinion is a Sign they have travelled *far at home*.

LET them take a Trip to *Hungary*, and visit the Mines where the Quicksilver is dug; they may there see Slaves working entirely naked, to prevent the stealing this precious Jelly of Metals, as it may be called; yet every Day swallow so much, that they buy a Choppin of Drink with it at Night.

SEVERAL Physicians have enquired of my Patients, To what End do I give it? Wherin can the Efficacy or Power of it consist? If they

they do not know, what follows may serve for Instruction.

FIRST, it secures the Patient from all Vermicular Diseases, of which no Practitioner can be sufficiently appriz'd, that has not spent some Time in hot Climates.

NEXT, it opens all Obstructions, which are supposed to be another general Cause of Diseases.

LASTLY, it makes a pure Balsam of the Blood, beyond all other Things in the Creation. Otherwise, why cannot Venereal Ulcers be cured without it? We often see those Sores in a Salivation grow well, without the Help of a Surgeon.

I DESIRE to know, Why I am called *The Quicksilver Doctor*, by way of Derision? Pray do not you, Gentlemen Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries, prescribe it almost every Day of your Lives? I aver, you do: Only you disguise it; and I give it in such an open honest Manner, that my Patient cannot be deceiv'd in taking it. Let me ask you, What is your Æthiops Mineral? Is it not Quicksilver ground to a black Powder, with Brimstone, and in as great Esteem with you as any of your Medicines? A very ingenious

genious Physician says, This is like striking a Man with your Sword in the Scabbard; and were it possible to have found a worse Menstruum than Sulphur, I do not know whether it ought not even then to have been tried. Certainly this Medicine shews a more than common Virtue, which can thus powerfully exert itself, when bound down by so contrary a Quality.

A PATIENT of mine, a Gentleman of Reputation and Figure, was lately taking of Quicksilver by my Direction. He told me, one of the most eminent Physicians here in Town said, He was very sorry to hear that I had put him under a Course of Quicksilver, and affirm'd it to be the most dangerous Medicine in the whole World, advising him by all Means to leave it off; when this Gentleman, at the same Time, was intimately acquainted with a Person who had the same Indisposition with his own, and had Quicksilver prescrib'd him by this very Doctor. He told me, besides, in what Manner he gave it; which a Man who had studied Physick only a Month, would have thought no small Reflection upon his Judgment. I wish my Patient would have given me his Name, it should

should have been put down in Words at full Length, for the general Good of Mankind.

[*Read the Second Part of the Hospital Surgeon, of the Nature and Virtues of Quicksilver.*]

*Belloft*, the Author of this Book, calls it the Miracle of Nature, and the greatest Gift of GOD in the whole Materia Medica.

I APPEAL to the Reader, if such a Person as I lately mention'd deserves the Title of *Doctor*. As for my Part, though I am but a poor *Batchelor* in Physick, I shall for ever scorn so mean, so dishonourable a Behaviour.

THE following Paragraphs are taken out of the Writings of two learned Physicians, and will convince the World that I am not single in the good Opinion I have of Quicksilver.

“ I HAVE found the continual Use of  
“ *Æthiops Mineralis* to be not only safe,  
“ but always effectual; which is generally  
“ postponed to the other Preparations of Mer-  
“ cury upon this Account only, because it  
“ is the most easily prepared of them all.

Thus

“ Thus the Operation of Quicksilver holds  
 “ universally the same ; which, however  
 “ constant it may be, hinders not yet in the  
 “ least, but that Quicksilver may be endow-  
 “ ed also with other Properties ; for it not  
 “ only opens obstracted Vessels, but also as  
 “ constantly blunts the Points of Acids.  
 “ *Friend's Emenologia, Chap. xiv.*”

“ IN AETHIOPS Mineral, and Cinnabar of  
 “ Antimony, the Mercury is so bridled up  
 “ by the Sulphur, that none of their sensible  
 “ Operations and Appearances are felt, while  
 “ they produce wonderful Changes in the  
 “ Body. I cannot pass over AETHIOPS Mi-  
 “ neral without pressing its more universal  
 “ Use therein, for ought I know, it has yet  
 “ had in common Practice. It is one of the  
 “ most certain and universal Alteratives, if  
 “ dosed sufficiently, and long enough per-  
 “ fisted in, of all the Dispensatory. It ra-  
 “ dically extirpates the Itch, Piles, scorbutic  
 “ and scrophulous Ulcers ; all cutaneous  
 “ Foulnesses ; all Inflammations and Fluxi-  
 “ ons of the Eyes ; all internal Ulcers,  
 “ Rheumatisms, White Swellings, sharp Hu-  
 “ mours in the Stomach and Guts ; and al-  
 “ most all Distempers arising from sify Jui-  
 “ ces :

ces: I say it cures these, if Art can do it.  
 It may be given almost to half an Ounce  
 a Day, especially with interspersed Mer-  
 curial Purges, without Trouble or any sen-  
 sible Operation, and may be continued a  
 Twelvemonth, if one pleases. I have had  
 frequent Occasion of trying the *Æthiops*  
 in different Cases, since the first Edition of  
 my Treatise, and never without Success.  
 Amongst others, I tried it upon a Person of  
 an exceeding gross corpulent habit, who had  
 pass'd the Meridian of Life, for a spreading,  
 foul, scorbutic Ulcer, which had affected  
 the whole Ankle for more than a Span-  
 Length quite round, and was pretty deep in  
 the Outside. He took three Drams, made  
 up with Syrup of Lemons, twice a Day  
 for four Months successively, and a gentle  
 Mercurial Purge once in ten Days: This  
 with a low cool Diet, and proper Dressings,  
 heal'd it quite up, when it was generally  
 thought scarce any Medicine, especially  
 so easy a one, would ever finish such a  
 Cure in such a Constitution. The *Æthiops*  
 was taken without any Disgust, Trouble,  
 or Interruption of Business; and it was  
 observable, (and it is for the sake of this

“ Ob-

“ Observation chiefly that I mention this Instance,) that the very Æthiops itself, after the Body had been fully replenish’d with it, in two Months Time forced itself through the sound Part of the Leg and Shin, and stuck to those Parts of the Plaister that cover’d them, in its proper Substance and Colour; which shews how readily this Medicine passes through the small Vessels of the Glands. This very Method never fails to cure Ophthalmia’s, even scrophulous ones; and is a most certain Remedy in an Ulcer of the Bladder, as I have always found, if given in a sufficient Dose, and persisted in a sufficient Time.”

*Cheyne’s Essay on the Gout,*  
Edit. 2. pag. 48, &c.

MUCH may be said to shew the Impossibility of Quicksilver doing any Damage to the Patient; what gives Offence to Nature, is, what we term *Spiculæ*, Points or Edges. Now Quicksilver always retaining a globular Figure, together with the Softness of its Body, no Harm can happen from the Use of it; only this I would advise the Patient, that he get a small Crucible, put into it the Quantity

ity of a Pistol-bullet of Quicksilver; set the Crucible on the Fire, if any of the soft Metals are put to it, they will remain, and the Quicksilver fly off. Note, a Pound of Lead costs two Pence, and a Pound of Quicksilver eight or ten Shillings: The Profit that arises may be one Cause of its Adulteration, and another to bring the Medicine into Dispute.

BUT let him take particular Care not to hang his Head over it; for the Effluvia are a Poisón of the most subtile Nature.

Now does any Thing so useful, so beneficial to Mankind, deserve to be so much exploded, and treated with so much Calumny? But amongst all their false Insinuations, let them bring one single Instance, well attested, of the Damage any one has received from it. Though I believe there never was a Medicine given, but sometimes has proved not only detrimental to the Patient, but even Death itself has ensued, especially when misapplied: Witness the so-much-celebrated *Gascoign's* Powder, which occasions yearly the Loss of many thousand Subjects to the Crown. I aver, Quicksilver never did any harm to the Patient,

which is more than can be said of any other Medicine.

*Acids.* THERE is another prevailing Opinion, That Acids are the Cause of almost all Diseases : Whereas they are not liable to Corruption, therefore must keep the Fluids pure, and without any Contamination : Nor can they be the Cause of any Fever, because they are the greatest Coolers we know of ; neither can they be the Cause of any cutaneous Eruption, because I know, by Experience, (as I could bring many to testify,) that they are a very powerful and effectual Remedy against such Distempers.

I KNOW no Method more proper than what is laid down in the foregoing Chapter, where Nature is wanting.

## KING's-EVIL, or Scrofula,

IS either Hereditary or Accidental, is seated in the Blood, and usually descends to the Children, if either of the Parents ever had it.

THIS

THIS Disease is seldom met with, but in young People. It generally appears first in the Glands of the Throat, with hard Swellings of a livid Colour, slow in coming to a Maturation, bearing the Touch without much Uneasiness, being attended with less Pain and Soreness than any other Ulcer, of what Kind soever.

THE Accidental proceeds from any old Ulcer that has been long in curing, or from any Inflammation of the Eyes, which I have observ'd, in a very short Time, to become scrofulous.

THE Hands, Feet, or any other Part, may be affected with it. Before the Patient comes to be Twenty-five Years of Age, 'tis rare but this Distemper naturally wears off. I was, some Years since, called to a Merchant's Son in this City, about six Years old: He had this Disease, in a violent Degree, in his private Parts, which were swelled to a prodigious Size; and at the same Time afflicted with no less than seven Ulcers. I order'd him a Diet-Drink: Upon taking of which, the Swelling abated, and the Ulcers grew well, without any other Application than dry Lint.

THE Spring following, this Distemper threatened a Return ; but upon the Repetition of the Diet-Drink he was perfectly recovered.

“ TAKE Mercurius Dulcis one Dram, Antimony reviv'd half a Dram. You may give of this Medicine three, four, or five Grains, according to the Age or Strength of the Patient. Take this twice a Week.”

IN the intermediate Days, use the Diet-Drink following :

“ TAKE of the Leaves of Senna half a Pound, the Root of Monks Rheubarb seven Ounces, the Roots of the sharp-pointed Dock, the Roots of Polypody of the Oak, of each four Ounces, the Roots of Mizerion three Ounces and a half, Rue leaved, Whitlow-Grafs, three Handfuls, Rinds of Oranges dried six Ounces, crude Antimony grossly powder'd one Pound: Slice and bruise these ; then put them in a Bag, and boil them in four Gallons and a half of middling Drink, to three Gallons. Take half a Pint every Morning, increasing

“ sing or lessening the Dose according to its  
 “ Operation. By this very Method I have  
 “ cured great Numbers.”

## ELEPHANTIASIS.

THE worst, and most obstinate of Cutaneous Diseases: 'Tis Vermicular.

THIS Species of Eruption does not always appear the same; sometimes it breaks out like small Boils, of several Colours; some yellow, some again white, and others of a livid Complexion. This last Sort sometimes brings off the Patient's Nails. I had a Gentlewoman, in this Town, in this miserable Condition; yet, in a short Time, she was perfectly well. In some, this Distemper appears in an infinite Number of Water-Bladders, from whence issue great Quantities of a salt briny Matter, of so corrosive a Quality, that where it falls, it excoriates. Salivation, in these Cases, has been tried without Success; yet the Distemper yields to Remedies in no respect violent.

# LEPROSY OF THE GREEKS, or Lepra Græcorum.

THIS appears in a broad white Scale, surrounded with a small Circle of Red, but almost even with the Skin ; which, as People grow in Years, for the most part gets Ground ; so that in Process of Time the Patient becomes very uneasy. This Disease is rarely cured ; because the Nature of it is for the most part mistaken, by reason Physicians suppose it to proceed from an acid Quality in the Fluids ; for which Reason they pour in Alkalious Remedies of all Sorts, which only add to the Matter of the Disease. Now, if any Person desires to be satisfied of this Mistake, I will venture to give such Proof of it, as shall be convincing, from the Experience of many Learned Men, that there is no Acid of any Kind in the Fluids ; as *Pitcairn* says, the famous Mr. *Boyle* asserts. Sir *John Colebatch*'s Experiment with the Syrup of Violets is sufficient, to go no farther. Dr. *Borehaave* is in the same Way of Thinking.

But why should Men of Art be so averse to Cold-bathing in this Case? The *Israelites* were famous for an itchy scabby People; ~~KK~~ and the only Remedy we find they made use of, was Immersion in cold Water.

PHYSICIANS object, That the Immersion in cold Water, in Cutaneous Cases, has often thrown this corrupt Matter on the Lungs, and caused Consumptions. If they can make this appear from one single Instance, it may give some Satisfaction as to what they assert; though it will be far from proving their Conclusion to be true. What they say of Cold Bathing, is very different from what I have experienc'd in Practice, and from my Way of Thinking.

UPON the Patient's Immersing in the most intense cold Water that can possibly be found, all the Heat is flung from the Surface of the Body, into its most inward Parts; when the Patient comes out, the Heat returning from whence it came, performs its Motion with that Elasticity and Force, that it fills the Skin with vast Numbers of cutaneous Spots, by which the Blood becomes much finer, and those corrupt Parts of the Fluids are discharged. For the Truth of this, I ap-

peal to every one that immerses in very cold Water.

IT may be farther presumed, That whereas the Patient often complains of flying Pains in the Muscles, which occasion a great Inability to Motion. This Disorder, generally speaking, is caused from Wind blowing up the Muscles beyond their due Tension: In which Case they will receive Benefit, not only from the cold Quality of the Water, but more from the Weight of it, which presses the Muscles into their due Places, so that you find your self instantly fitter for Motion.

IN some Parts of *Asia*, as soon as any one complains of Pains in their Muscles and Bones, their Friends immediately throw them on the Ground, and kneel on them, at length, by pressing their Muscles, they are sensible of Relief.

I HAVE dwelt the longer on this Head, because I would have *Cold Bathing* grow as universal as, I hope, *Inoculation* in a short Time will do. And now I have mentioned Inoculation, I should think it unpardonable, if I should take no Notice of her Majesty, as a great Promoter and Encourager of this

Practice. I believe the World will readily allow me, that her Majesty is as much superior in her Understanding, to the Generality of her Sex, as she is superior to them in that Station in which Providence, so happily for Mankind, has placed her. How many are there that are ready to run into any Mode or Fashion, though never so extravagant, if it has but the Sanction of the Great? Let such, on this Occasion, imitate their Queen. Is it possible they can be sollicitous in Matters of a trifling Nature, and shew little or no Regard to what is of infinite Importance to Mankind? Inoculation is as beneficial an Invention, in every Respect, as either this Age, or any of the preceding ones, have produced: Yet, what is very surprising, it meets with little Encouragement from the Ladies. Is Beauty, that arrives to such a Perfection in an *English* Climate, of so little Importance, that it is beneath our Care? What miserable Havock, what terrible Changes has this one Distemper produced in the most lovely and amiable Part of the Creation? The Ladies may possibly smile to hear a Man of Seyenty use such warm

Ex-

Expressions ; but I will venture to say with Mr. Dryden, That

\* *Old as I am, for Ladies Love unfit,  
The Power of Beauty I remember yet.*

I therefore lament the small and inconsiderable Progress which Inoculation has as yet made in *Great Britain*.

As to that ridiculous Aspersion some People have cast upon it, by calling it a *Tempting of God*, and bringing Diseases upon our selves : This, to a thinking Person, must appear so frivolous, that it scarcely deserves an Answer. Is there one single Passage in the whole Sacred Writings, that restrains Mankind from anticipating an Evil, by making use of the proper Precautions for preventing it ? If these scrupulous Gentlemen, whose Consciences were not always so strait-laced, will produce me but one single Instance of an absolute Prohibition from Things of this Nature, I will readily acquiesce, and willingly retract my Error. I beg my Reader's pardon for so long a Digression ; but I hope the Importance of the Subject will sufficiently atone for it. I can assure them, what has been said

said on this Occasion, is not from any View to my own private Interest, but merely out of Regard to the general Good of Mankind.

## BRANNY ITCH, or *Pruritus Farinus.*

THIS Sort of Eruption is much like Bran, from whence it takes its Name. 'Tis pretty universal, spreading all over the Body and Limbs; but is much easier cured than either of the former.

'Tis cured by the same Method with the Leprosy of the *Greeks.*

## ITCH, or *Pruritus.*

THIS is the most common of all, very much infesting the Sea-Coasts of *England, Scotland, and Ireland;* and is very contagious. It is caused generally by Filthiness, and feeding much upon Fish. This even the Illiterate allow to be vermicular.

In

In hot Climates I have seen the Vermin moving in the Pustles. The Remedies which are used, undeniably prove the Disease to be very vermicular; for all Mercurial Ointments and Washes, nay, a Quicksilver Girdle, are the common Remedies; and we know nothing that so infallibly destroys Worms as Mercury.

I SHALL now proceed to give a Description of most of the Acute Diseases amongst us, as I have done of the Chronic, except a Lethargy, which proceeds from too moist a Brain, and needs no Description.

“ TAKE one Quart of Spring-Water, dis-  
 “ solve in it one Dram of Sublimate, Cream  
 “ of Tartar half an Ounce: Wash the  
 “ Pustles over with this at Night going to  
 “ Bed: Change your Linnen, and in three  
 “ Nights at farthest you shall be well. 'Tis  
 “ necessary at least to purge. I likewise re-  
 “ commend Bleeding.

## PLAUE, or Pestis.

I SHALL begin with what the Learned Dr. *Willis* says of it: *Natura pestis miasmate virulento & spirituali fundatur, à quo Effluvia vaporosa quaque versus diffusa adeo potenter se explicant, ut vel ex minimo seminario feracem mortis & exitii segetem cito propagent.*

By this he only design'd to describe after what Manner the Infection is convey'd; which seems very reasonable. Take the Description of this Distemper as follows:

It begins, as all other Fevers do, with Intermissions of Heat and Cold; the Symptoms are higher than in any other Fever; intense Thirst, violent Vomitings, Pains in the Head, Back, Joints, and all over the Muscles; a total Failure and Prostration of all Strength and Ability, as if there was, as in Reality there is, a general Mortification of all the Fluids ensuing.

The Appearances, which come on in a few Hours, are what we call *Petechiae*, or black Spots, with a Bubo or inflammatory Swelling

ling in the Groin, or some other of the Ex-  
municitories.

THIS Disease is very soon at a Crisis, in  
three or four Days at the farthest, but gene-  
rally sooner.

WHEN I took by Storm the two Cities of  
*Guaiaquil*, under the Line, in the *South Seas*,  
it happen'd, that not long before, the Plague  
had raged amongst them. For our better  
Security, therefore, and keeping our People  
together, we lay in their Churches, and like-  
wise brought thither the Plunder of the  
Cities: We were very much annoy'd with  
the Smell of dead Bodies. These Bodies  
could hardly be said to be buried; for the  
*Spaniards* abroad use no Coffins, but throw  
several dead Bodies one upon another, with  
only a Draw-board over them; so that it is  
no Wonder we receiv'd the Infection.

IN a very few Days after we got on board,  
one of the Surgeons came to me, to acquaint  
me, that several of my Men were taken after  
a violent Manner, with that Languor of Spi-  
rits, that they were not able to move. I im-  
mediately went among them, and, to my  
great Surprize, soon discerned what was the  
Matter. In less than Forty-eight Hours we  
had

had in our several Ships one hundred and eighty Men in this miserable Condition.

I ORDER'D the Surgeons to bleed them in both Arms, and to go round to them all, with Command to leave them bleeding till all were blooded, and then come and tie them up in their Turns. Thus they lay bleeding and fainting, so long, that I could not conceive they could lose less than an hundred Ounces each Man.

IF we had lost so great a Number of our People, the poor Remains must infallibly have perish'd. I began to consider, that the Plague was no more than a Fever of the most exalted Kind; and so *Duro buic nodo durior adbuc cuneus adbibendus.* A Fever we define to be *Aucta sanguinis Fermentatio sanguini & humoribus inducta.* The only Intention of Healing, must be to abate that preternatural Fermentation, and resist Putrefaction, which must be by large Quantities of cooling and diluting Liquors. We had on board Oil and Spirit of Vitriol sufficient, which I caused to be mixed with Water to the Acidity of a Lemon, and made them drink very freely of it; so that notwithstanding we had one hundred and eighty

odd

c

odd down in this most fatal Distemper, yet we lost no more than seven or eight; and even these owed their Deaths to the strong Liquors which their Mess-Mates procured for them.

THEY had all Spots, which in the great Plague they call *Tokens*; few or none of the *Spaniards* escaped Death that had them; but my People had them, and Buboes too.

Now if we had had Recourse to Alexipharmicks, such as *Venice Treacle*, *Diascordium*, *Mithtidate*, and such-like good-for-nothing Compositions, or the most celebrated *Gascuin's Powder*, or *Bezoar*, I make no Question at all, considering the Heat of the Climate, but we had lost every Man.

'Tis surprizing to me, that Physicians can read so many Authors, and overlook the most reasonable Rules for the Good and Preservation of Mankind, and imbibe Principles, which, were it not for fear of giving Offence, I should say, are contrary to Common Sense. I shall instance in one more remarkable than all the rest.

THE first Axiom that is laid down by *Riverius*, in his Therapeutic Part of his Institutes, is, *Omnis curandi Methodus à primo hoc*

hoc & generalissimo principio desumitur, contraria contrariis curantur.

GALEN says, No Rule in the Mathematisks is more certain than this. I have had more than Forty-eight Years Experience to back this Assertion, and in the worst Climates.

READ the Man whose Reason was much superior to mine, the honest and good Dr. Sydenham, and see if the Rule above was not his Guide.

SENNERTUS also, in his Institutes, says, *Quicquid curatur, curatur contrariis.*

THIS very Rule has been so little regarded, that a Physician of this Town offer'd to lay Five hundred Pounds with me, that I did not produce such an Axiom ; but as he grew cooler, he thought better of it. By this it appears, how little Notice is taken of the most useful Rules in the Art of Healing.

## The SPOTTED FEVER.

**I**N this Distemper, as in all other Fevers, I prescribe the cool Regimen, which must be follow'd in case Mankind prefer *Life* to *Death*, *Ease* to *Pain*; a short Fit of Illness to a long and tedious one; a good to a broken and shatter'd Constitution; laying aside Blisters, and all heating and poisonous Powders: The former serve only to keep the Patient upon the Rack; the latter, to heighten and increase his Fever. — And what is still worse, it extracts the Serum, which is the purest Part of the Blood.

SOME of our modern Physicians are extremely fond of a Modish Remedy, call'd *Harts-Horn*; let them only make this Experiment. Mix a small Quantity of *Harts-Horn* with the Venal Blood; they'll be surpriz'd to see as good Dirt as any they can meet with in their Streets. Mankind cannot fail of being infinitely oblig'd to them for such an useful Invention. On the contrary, let them mix the same Quantity of Spirit of Vitriol with an equal Quantity of Blood,

and

and it shall appear equally bright, and florid, with the Arterial Blood.

If it should please GOD to afflict us with this Disease, some Persons must be under no small Concern to procure a sufficient Quantity of Cantharides; for if it should so happen that People went to their Graves with whole Skins, then the most sovereign Remedy would be omitted. Now this great Catholicon does not only poison and inflame the Fluids, but draws off the purer Part of the Blood, which is the Serum. By this Practice the Mass becomes more grumous and thick; so that Circulation is impeded, and the Patient suffocated: Whereas if there was Care taken to dilute and thin the Mass of Blood, Circulation would be much easier maintain'd, and by this Means prevent Death. An eminent Physician was ask'd, How Blistering came so much in Fashion? He answer'd, They had it from the *Indians*. But I, that have seen more *Indians* than all the Physicians in *England*, deny that the *Indians* ever make use of Blisters. They do often cauterise; and in all Fevers amongst them, they cover the Patients over in the Sands till they are in a profuse Sweat, and then throw them

into the cold Water ; by which Means they become well.

I SHOULD be glad to know if Dr. *Radcliff* ever used this inhuman Method of Blistering, as it is now in Vogue. I should be glad to know likewise, if there is any Authority from any of our most approved Authors for such a Practice. The honest Dr. *Sydenham* calls Blistering, *Humano corrigulere*. Dr. *Baynard* would say, That as *Belzebub* signifies a Fly in the Hebrew Language, that the Devils were nothing but great Cantharides. We should likewise be at a Loss for Bezoar, that petrified Matter of Disease, cut out of the Paunches, Galls, and Bladders of some of the nastiest Creatures in being, as Guananoes, a monstrous Beast between a Camel and a He-Goat, black Cattle, Hogs, Goats, and an ugly Animal they call *Pacos de la Tierra*, Monkeys, Porcupines, and all such nasty Animals.

Of this I have been credibly inform'd by Persons of the best Reputation, both in the *East* and *West Indies*.

WE, in Dissections, too often find in the Galls and Bladders of Human Bodies, great Quantities of Stones, which doubtless may

as well serve for Bezoar, as the diseased Mater of the afore-mention'd Beasts ; they for the most part dying with these several Sorts of Stones, as by Experience 'tis daily seen we do.

## SPOTTED FEVER, or Febris Pestilentialis.

THIS begins like the Plague, excepting that all the Symptoms are less violent ; Intermissions of Heat and Cold, Vomiting, great Pains in the Head, Back, Limbs, Joints, and all the Muscles, intense Thirst. The first Crisis is the Petechiæ ; or black Spots. If the Patient survives this fatal Disease, the last Crisis, which we define to be *Subita & repentina mutatio in morbo facta vel ad salutem vel ad mortem divergens*, is seldom before the seventeenth or twenty-first Day.

ABOUT thirty-seven Years since, this Fever raged much in *Bristol*, so that I visited from twenty-five to thirty Patients a Day for a considerable Time, besides their poor Children taken into their Workhouse, where I

engaged my self, for the Encouragement of so good and charitable an Undertaking, to find them Phyfick, and give them Advice at my own Expence and Trouble, for the two first Years. All these poor Children in general had this Fever, yet no more than one died out of the whole Number, which was near two hundred.

I SHALL give a particular Instance of one Person cured in an uncommon Way.

ONE *Thomas Hacket*, an Apprentice to Mr *John Scandrett* a Grocer in *Wine-Street, Bristol*, labouring under this fatal Fever, had a violent Hemorrhage, or Flux of Blood at his Nose, notwithstanding great Quantities of Blood were taken from his Arms, and the most cooling Medicines administer'd which could be thought of; yet all prov'd ineffectual, insomuch that there was no Room to expect his Life. I order'd a large Vessel to be filled below-stairs with Spring-Water. He was carried down in a Sheet, and put into the Water; he dipp'd his Head several times, upon which the Bleeding stopped. I believe he might continue in the Water a Quarter of an Hour; after which Time he was carried to Bed, only cover'd with a Sheet. He slept well

well that Night; the Spots all disappear'd; he was very well, only weak, and is now living in *Bristol*.

THIS being of a very high inflammatory Nature, 'tis proper to take away large Quantities of Blood, giving the Purge described in the Gout every other Day, taking after it the same Night the following Draught.

“ BLACK-Cherry-Water, Mint-Water, of  
 “ each one Ounce and a half; Plague-Water  
 “ half an Ounce, Diacodium ten Drams,  
 “ made into a Draught. On the Days you  
 “ do not purge, take the following: Con-  
 “ serve of Wood-Sorrel, of Hips, and Bar-  
 “ berries, of each one Ounce; Cream of  
 “ Tartar, and Tartar vitriolated, of each two  
 “ Drams; Syrup of Raspberries, enough to  
 “ make it into a fine Electuary. Take the  
 “ Quantity of a Nutmeg at four or five in  
 “ the Afternoon, and at Bed-Time, drinking  
 “ after it a Tea-spoonful of *Mynsicht's* E-  
 “ lixir of Vitriol in a large Glass of Water,  
 “ keeping the Patient very cool, and giving  
 “ large Draughts of cooling and diluting  
 “ Liquors.

## The FLUX SMALL Pox, or Va- riolæ Confluentes.

THIS Disease was, doubtless, long before the Time of *Hippocrates*, or the Divine old Man, as we call him ; and yet 'tis very surprizing he makes no Mention of it ; nor have we any *Greek Word* for it.

THERE are three Species of this Disease commonly known to Physicians, the Confluent, Anomalous, and Distinct.

I SHALL venture to set down a fourth Kind, which I have observ'd, as different from the three former, as they are from each other ; and which may be called the Spotted Kind.

I SHALL begin with the most fatal of the three first Sorts, the Confluent Small Pox.

THIS Distemper sets out in the same Manner as other Fevers do, from the Plague to an Ague, Intermissions of Heat and Cold, Vomitings, great Thirst, violent Pains in the Head, Back, &c. But the Physician may be assured where those Lumbago's, or Pains

in the Back, are complain'd of, let the Fever be of any Kind whatsoever, it certainly carries a Sting with it, though no Man can say what Species of Fever it will be, before its first Crisis.

SOON after the Patient is seized with this Sort of the Small Pox, the Face and Hands, and all Parts of the Body, shall be very much inflamed, broad red Spots appearing ; and the second or third Day, at farthest, there shall begin to appear an entire Blister from Head to Foot, often attended with spitting Blood, bloody Urine, and the like.

ONE would think, from the new-invented Way of curing this Distemper by Blistering, (for which no good Reason can be given, nor do I remember any Authority for it,) that this Disease must certainly bring its Remedy with it ; for here is a Blister from Head to Foot, and consequently this Confluent Kind of Small Pox ought to be less dangerous than the other two Sorts : But to our great Grief, we find this Sort to be more difficult to be cured, than either Pestilential Fever or Plague ; nor does any acute Disease come up to it for Danger, except the Fourth

Sort

Sort of Small Pox, of which I shall speak hereafter.

It will be necessary to take Notice of the critical Days in this fatal Disease. There is little Mention made of any critical Day in this Town but the *Ninth*, which is no critical Day, nor is it possible any just Reckoning can be kept by it. Thus, while People are ignorant of the Days of Danger, how can Provision be made against them ?

THE critical Days, we shall venture to say, are the eighth, the eleventh, the fourteenth, the seventeenth, and the twenty-first ; to be thus accounted.

IF you are ill at ten of the Clock at Night, that must be call'd the first Day, as really it is, inclusive.

AND 'tis thus we reckon Tertian and Quartan Agues.

THE Reason why the Ninth Day comes to be accounted critical, is from People's reckoning from the Day of Eruption.

Now in Confluent Small Poxes, if the Patient begins to complain at Two or Three in the Morning, there shall be broad red Spots appear before twelve at Night. 'Tis evident, the critical Days are much protract-  
ed

ed by the Crudity of the Matter, which always happens when it appears so very soon; and by this Protraction the last critical Day comes to be the twenty-first.

'Tis a known Maxim in Physick, *Primæ concoctionis vitium non corrigit secunda*; and so on.

IN the Anomalous Kind, which is less crude, the fourteenth or seventeenth are the last critical Days; and in the distinct Sort the eleventh.

THIS Account, I will venture to say, is a true one; so that the ninth Day has no Place amongst the critical Days. If the Faculty please, it may be called one of the *Dies Indices*.

## ANOMALOUS SMALL POX, or Variolæ Anomalæ.

THOUGH my Design is to treat of several acute Diseases, yet there need no farther Description than that where Symptoms appear high, the Fever will be of a more dangerous Kind; and where they are

more

more remiss, the ensuing Distemper will be of a more favourable Sort.

THIS Species of Small Pox is distinguish'd from the other two by its fluxing in some Parts, and being in other very distinct.

THE Physician may be very serviceable to his Patient in this Case, if it be rightly understood, otherwise the Patient often suffers Death. But it must be consider'd, Nature is three Days forming variolous Matter: Most Physicians are too apt to be giving heating Medicines to throw it out, by which Means the Fever is very much increased, which brings on a great Ataxie, or irregular Motion of the Animal Spirits; so that all Digestion of the Morbifick Matter is obstructed, contrary to a known Maxim, *Cocta non cruda sunt medicanda*; so that nothing but Water-Bladders and blue Spots appear, which renders the Patient's Circumstances very deplorable.

IT must be Want of Observation that makes Physicians so fearful of Bleeding in this Distemper after the Eruption. The good Dr. Sydenham goes no further than *Mittetur sanguis quovis die ante tertium inclusive*, which is but the second Day after their Appearances.

pearances. But the most excellent *Peter Bayrus*, of *Turin*, who wrote about one hundred and ninety Years since, goes further ; and I can affirm, by Experience, and from the Success I have had, that the Patient may be bled every, or any Day, to the twenty-first.

IT is impossible it can pass the Observation of Physicians, and People that usually attend Women in this Species of Small Pox, that about the sixth or seventh Day great Floodings come, especially if it happens in the Flower of their Age. Now all this is Arterial Blood, which is the Life and Spirit of Mankind : And this is never prejudicial, where no Endeavours are used to stop it. Nature will neither be forced, nor driven, and is often very hard to be led ; but will do Wonders when properly assisted.

Now if so much Arterial Blood may be lost without Inconvenience, how much more may be taken by Phlebotomy from the Veins, with the utmost Advantage to the Patient.

THERE is one Thing very material, and which ought principally to be regarded in this Distemper ; that about the seventh or eighth

eighth Day there comes on a Ptyalism, which is a Salivation, without which the Patient never lives. Children that have it never salivate, but have a Diarrhœa, or Looseness, which is much the same in Effect. Where the Physician stops it, he kills the Child ; and how many poor Babes have lost their Lives by this Practice, it is terrible to think.

PERMIT me to give an Instance of a Gentleman, who was Steward to the Duke of *Beaufort*, one Mr. *Curr* : He had this Species of Small Pox ; no Ptyalism coming on at the usual Time, I gave him Mercury ; but that not answering, and he lying as it were *in Extremis*, I resolv'd to make a Child of him, and purge him to eight or ten Motions ; by which he was so much reliev'd, that I went on in that Course every Day, till the Danger of his Distemper was over. He is now living in *South Wales*, a Gentleman of 1000 *L.* per Annum.

THIS brings to my Mind a Saying of the great and learned Lord *Verulam*, *Non fingendum aut excogitandum, sed inveniendum quid natura faciat aut ferat.*

## DISTINCT SMALL POX, or VARIOLÆ DISTINCTÆ.

THESE wants very little to be said on this Kind of Small Pox. I have heard of several, but never had one that died in this Case: The less is done, the better; for having but a few, they are never of a bad Sort; whereas, if you have many, they are never of a good Sort.

## SPOTTED SMALL POX.

THIS Sort begins with very high Symptoms, and appears with large red Spots, much like the Confluent Kind, with the Face and other Parts very much inflamed; yet in twelve Hours the Patient shall become perfectly pale, the very Middle of those red Spots turning to a black corney Substance, hardly so big as a large Pin's Head. Of this Sort, in forty odd Years Practice, I have observ'd no more than five, all

all Children. I could never carry one to the first critical Day; whereas, in the Confluent Kind, they rarely die before:

“ IN this I bleed in large Quantities, “ keeping the Patient very cool, and con- “ stantly plying him with Cool Tankards, “ and such diluting Liquors, giving every “ Evening about Five of the Clock an Ounce, “ or an Ounce and an half of Diacodium. If “ that does not procure Rest, after three “ Hours I repeat it. I sharpen all his Malt- “ Liquors with Spirit of Vitriol. If it be of “ the Flux, or Anomalous Kind, the seventh “ Day I give of Mercurius Dulcis, and Cin- “ nabar of Antimony, of each half a Scruple, “ made into a Bolus with any Conserve; and “ do the like again the thirteenth Day. “ The tenth Day you may begin to use the “ following Cordial in small Quantities.

“ TAKE Cowslip-Water, Mint-Water, “ Black-Cherry-Water, of each three Ounces, “ Plague-Water, and Aqua Mirabilis, each “ an Ounce and a half prepared; Pearl a “ Dram and a half, sweeten’d with fine Sugar. “ You may sometimes take a Glass of Wine, “ agreeable to a known Maxim in Physick;

“ In

“ *In declinacione morbi quo magis calefacis*  
 “ *eo magis concoctionem promoves.*

“ WHEN the last critical Day is over, I  
 “ bleed to about twelve Ounces ; the next  
 “ Day purge with that set down in the  
 “ Gout, taking a Quieting-Draught of Dia-  
 “ codium at Night when the Purging is over.  
 “ Purging and Bleeding very well after this  
 “ Disease, must upon no Account be omitted ;  
 “ otherwise the Patient will break out in  
 “ Boils, and will have very sore and weak  
 “ Eyes for a considerable Time after.

WHILST I lived with Dr. *Sydenham*, I  
 had my self the Small Pox, and fell ill on  
 Twelfth-Day. In the Beginning I lost  
 twenty-two Ounces of Blood : He gave me  
 a Vomit ; but I find, by Experience, Purging  
 much better. I went abroad, by his Direc-  
 tion, till I was blind, and then took to my  
 Bed. I had no Fire allow'd in my Room,  
 my Windows were constantly open, my Bed-  
 Clothes were order'd to be laid no higher than  
 my Waist. He made me take twelve Bottles  
 of small Beer, acidulated with Spirit of Vi-  
 triol, every twenty-four Hours. I had of

this Anomalous Kind to a very great Degree, yet never lost my Senses one Moment.

THIS Method will serve very well in the Confluent Sort. This you may follow in the Distinct Small Pox; but in a more remiss Degree.

Miss CORBET had as high a Confluent Small Pox as ever I saw, making bloody Water, and the worst Symptoms attending her. Dr. Mead, and another Physician, left her, saying, She could not live six Hours. I was call'd to her; I desir'd she might instantly be blooded. The Right Honourable the Lady Hotham, her Mother, sent for a Surgeon, who refused to do it, telling my Lady, That Dr. Mead said, That if she was bled, she would die instantly. I told the Lady, That Colours were all the same to the Blind: I had a black Man that bled very well, and sent for him, who perform'd the Operation: She lost a vast Quantity of Blood. Miss Corbet declared afterwards, That upon bleeding she found her Spirits revived, and, as it were, a new Life coming on; and so it pleased GOD she recover'd.

BUT there is lately a new Species of the Small Pox, call'd, *The Honeycomb Small Pox*, never known before. The Use of Blisters in this Disease rob the Pustles of the Matter contain'd in them ; and then the Pustles, by subsiding, something resemble an Honeycomb. But if Doctors will create new Diseases, 'tis fit they should give them new Names.

## MEASLES, or Morbilli.

THIS is a Disease chiefly incident to Youth, the Pustles never rising above the Superficies of the Skin, unless forced by too heating Medicines, and too hot a Regimen. It generally terminates the fourth or fifth Day, carrying with it little or no Danger, if the Physician be not over-busy with his Cordials and forcing Medicines, which only increase the Fever, and by that Means often endanger the Patient.

I DO not remember I ever heard of any one's dying of this Disease, till about twenty-five Years since ; but of late, by the Help of Gascoin's Powder, and Bezoartic Bolusses, together with Blisters, and a hot Regimen,

(which, if experienc'd on a healthy Person, would endanger his Life,) the Blood is so highly inflamed, and the Fever increased to that Degree, that it is become equally mortal with the Small Pox.

THERE is nothing farther required in the Cure of this Disease, than to give a little Diacodium at Night, allowing a sufficient Quantity of cooling and diluting Liquors.

## SCARLET FEVER, or Febris Scarletina.

THIS is a Fever of a milder Kind than the Measles, and does not want the Assistance of a Doctor. The Skin seems to be universally inflamed ; but the Inflammation goes off in forty-eight Hours.

THERE is also another Sort of Fever with Eruption, too inconsiderable to make another Chapter. This Distemper, called by some the *Swine Pox*, by others the *Chicken Pox*. There is nothing more necessary in these light Fevers with Eruptions, than to purge duly after them.

USE the same Method as in the Measles.

## ERYSIPelas, or Febris Erysi- pelatosa.

THIS Fever, when in the Face, is called *St. Anthony's Fire*; when in the Body, or Limbs, *Erysipelas*.

It appears with a very great Inflammation where it begins, with vast Numbers of Water-Bladders, and is very apt to turn to a Mortification, as it often does, insomuch that the Patient loses his Life: But by proper Remedies it is very easily cured, and in a few Days.

THIS Inflammatory Fever is curable by high bleeding, and frequent purging. The best topical Remedy is *Venice Treacle*; which prevents Mortification, and soon destroys the Pustles, or Water-Bladders.

## PERIPNEUMONIE, or Peripneumonia.

THIS comes on as all other Species of Fevers do.

'Tis known by a violent, acute, and poignant Pain all round the Breast and Sides. In short, a general Inflammation of that most sensible Membrane, the Pleura, accompanied with a great Difficulty of breathing, short Cough; Languor of Spirits; and kills in a very few Hours, without profuse Bleeding.

THIS Distemper is incident to all Ages and Sexes, but generally seizes adult Persons.

THE principal Thing required in the Cure of this Disease is Bleeding, which must be followed till all the poignant or shooting Pains are entirely removed.

“ TAKE Oil of Lillies, Oil of Sweet Almonds, Ointment of Althea, of each equal Quantities; rub it into the Parts affected very well, Morning and Night, putting a Sheet of brown Paper over it.

“ Take

" Take of Melon, Pompion, Gourd-Seed,  
 " of each half an Ounce, white Poppy-Seeds  
 " three Drams, ten Jordan Almonds blanch'd ;  
 " bruise these in a Marble Mortar, pour-  
 " ing on by little and little a Pint and half  
 " of Barley-Water. Add a little Sugar,  
 " and make an Emulsion. Let the Patient  
 " drink plentifully of this. Take Oil of  
 " Sweet Almonds two Ounces, of Syrup of  
 " Violets, and Syrup of Venus Maiden  
 " Hair, of each one Ounce, Sugar Candy  
 " half an Ounce, making it as sharp with  
 " Spirit of Vitriol as a Seville Orange, and  
 " make a Lambative ; take of it often in a  
 " Day from a Liquorish Stick."

## PLEURISY, or Pleuritis.

**T**HIS may be said to be the half of a Peripneumonic, affecting one Side only. Some will have it that it falls only on the Left Side ; but it often comes on the Right too. 'Tis an high inflammatory Fever, accompanied with violent, acute, and pricking Pains, with a short Cough attending it ; with

which, after a little Time, if the Physician be not ready in bleeding it off, the Patient spits a bloody and purulent Matter, and is in Danger of a Consumption.

THE Cure is the same as in the foregoing Chapter. I never knew any one die of this Disease, but for want of Bleeding.

## QUINSEY, or Angina.

THIS is one of the most violent and acute Fevers that can befall us. The Learned make not three Species, but rather three Degrees of it; viz. Gynanche, Synanche, and Parafsynanche. This inflames the Tonsils or Glands about the Throat, as also the Muscles of the Wind-Pipe and Gullet, so that swallowing any Thing is totally obstructed. This Disease yields to nothing but high Bleeding. Many have died in eight Hours, after the first Seizure.

“ THIS Disease requires as high Bleeding  
“ as any; you must likewise open both  
“ Veins under the Tongue. Take Plantane-  
“ Water,

" Water, Red-Rose-Water, and Frogs-  
 " Spawn-Water, of each three Ounces, the  
 " Whites of three Eggs beaten to a Water,  
 " Syrup of Mulberries two Ounces, gargle  
 " your Throat often with these. Another  
 " Gargarism, though this be a very good  
 " one, I much prefer : Take Spring-Water  
 " one Pint, Mercury Sublimate half a Dram,  
 " Cream of Tartar two Drams. Levigate  
 " these very fine, then filtre it off for your  
 " Use. Purging is very requisite."

## RHEUMATISM, or Rheuma- tismus.

**T**HIS is likewise a high inflammatory  
 Fever : The Blood does not appear  
 more pleurical or sizey in any Distemper  
 than in this.

This for the most part causes great Pains  
 in the Joints ; nor are the Muscles free. If  
 it fixes in any Part three or four Days, it  
 often causes small Tumours without Inflam-  
 mation, which, as the Pains pass to other  
 Parts, soon disappear, for they are never long  
 fixed

fixed on any Part ; from whence it takes the Name of Arthritis Vaga, or Wandring Gout.

In the Day-Time these Pains are very tolerable ; but when the Patient is warm in Bed, very acute and torturing.

BLEEDING in this Case is no Remedy : I myself having known very many lose an hundred Ounces of Blood, and more, without the least Relief. The Cure is much easier performed without that Operation, as has been often experienced by several eminent Physicians.

“ TAKE Turbith Mineral eight Grains,  
 “ Conserve of Hipps one Dram ; make it  
 “ into an Electuary. Take it about four  
 “ a-Clock in the Afternoon ; between every  
 “ Motion drink Posset-Drink. At Bed-Time  
 “ take an Ounce, or an Ounce and half of  
 “ Diacodium ; drink plentifully of the E-  
 “ mulSION prescribed in the Peripneumonie.  
 “ The next Night take of the Sweat as pre-  
 “ scribed in the Gout, Immersion in cold  
 “ Water is a Remedy of singular Use.”

AGUE,

## AGUE, or Febris Intermittens.

I HAVE observed, That a Consumption was an inflammatory Disease ranged among the Cronicks : An Ague is a nervous Distemper, placed amongst the Acute.

THIS Species of Fever does not proceed from an inflamed Mass of Blood, as all other Fevers do, but from an Ataxie, or violent Motion of the animal Spirits, which causes as great a Degree of Heat, as if the Blood were in the most exalted Fermentation: All Heat being nothing else but the Effect of Motion.

PHYSICIANS have been very much at a Loss to find out the Cause and Seat of this Disease, it being, as was observed before, a nervous Fever. It must proceed from the Brain; otherwise how is it possible it should keep its stated Periods, so as to come at the same Hour every Day, every third, and every fourth Day, as it certainly does, reckoning the Day inclusive. Whereas in an inflamed Mass of Blood, the Fever always continues.

continues till the Inflammation is wholly taken off, and then the Fever ceases, without any Return.

FARTHERMORE we say, *Ex juvantibus & laedentibus sumitur indicatio.* Bleeding, 'tis plain from every one's Experience, is highly prejudicial in this Case. The Remedy to which this Distemper yields, is the Bark; which is the best Medicine in nervous Cases known to Mankind. Yet the giving such large Quantities of the gross Part, has often done very great Prejudice to the Patient.

THE Virtue of this Vegetable consists in a resinous Quality; which, if separated from the earthly Part, will prove a Remedy indeed.

IT may be wondered with what Difficulty the Use of the Bark was first introduced; and that it should almost be look'd upon at present as a Panacea, is equally surprizing; insomuch, that now there is more Harm done by it, than it formerly did Good, the Doctor watching diligently for an Intermision: Whereas there's great Difference between Intermision and Remission; for as all

Fevers

Fevers have their Times of Exacerbation, so necessarily they must have Times of Remission, but none of Intermision ; because then the Patient must be perfectly well and free, as in an intermitting Fever. Too many pay dear for this Mistake.

Dr. MORTON, esteemed a good Physician, was a great Admirer of this Medicine, insomuch that he gave it in almost all Cases. I never observed it do any Good, but in nervous Complaints. Physicians and Apothecaries are little acquainted with the Nature of it. In *Peru* they call it Cascarilla. It may be doubted if one hundred Weight of it be used in a whole Year throughout that Kingdom, which is more than twenty Times as large as *Great Britain*.

“ TAKE two Ounces of fine Bark grossly powdered ; infuse it cold in a Quart of Red Port for twenty four Hours ; then filtre it off as you use it, taking six Spoonfuls every third or fourth Hour, beginning just when the Fit is off, till you have taken the whole Quart. Thus repeat it four Times, and it will not return. This must

“ must be observed, If it purges, it will do  
 “ no Service. In this Case put two or three  
 “ Drops of Liquid Laudanum into each  
 “ Dose, till the Purging is stopp'd.”

## FEVER on the SPIRITS.

**I**T may be justly said, All Fevers are on the Spirits, and no where else. 'Tis wisely observed this Fever does not appear; to which may be readily answered, *De non existentibus & de non apparentibus eadem est ratio.*

THIS naturally leads me to take Notice of the Fluids of human Bodies; and I shall leave it to the Opinion of the Reader, in which of them a Fever begins or continues.

Now the Fluids consist of animal, mineral, and vegetable Beings, Alkali's, and Acids, which may be thus accounted, Spirit, Sulphur, Salt, Earth, and Water: There is no Description to be given of the first of these, unless a negative one; the two second are Minerals; the other two the Joint-cause of Vegetation.

LET

LET the Reader consider, if a due Mixture of the four last are capable of begetting such a Heat in human Bodies, as to cause a Fever without the Intervention of the Spirits, from whence it may reasonably be concluded all Fevers proceed.

THIS is cured, as in the foregoing Chapter.

## DISEASES of the STOMACH, de Ventriculi affectibus.

**A**LMOST all Distempers proceed from a Vice in this Bowel ; and it as rarely fails to have its Share in most Disorders liable to human Bodies ; as great Sickness, Pains, Convulsions, which are the usual Complaints the Patient makes when this Part is affected. This seems principally to be caused from Indigestion ; so that the crude Chyle mixing with the other Fluids, soon brings on Putrefaction ; for if the first Digestion be not good, the second never corrects the Vice of the first ; as we say, *Prima concoctionis vitium non corrigit secunda*, and

and so on ; so that any Distemper we are liable to, may, and, for the most part, does proceed from Indigestion.

VOMITING, in the forementioned Disorders, if exploded, would prove beneficial to the Patient, it being contrary to the Rules of Nature ; which has provided, that what is received at the Mouth, should pass to the common Draught : So that Purging seems more reasonable ; because by that the Intestines, as well as the Stomach, are freed from their Filth and Impurities ; which Vomits do not so effectually carry off.

THERE is farther this Disadvantage, That the Fibres of the Stomach are drawn from their true Peristaltick, to a contrary Motion, which is too great a Strain for those fine Vessels, by which Means they become lax, and are much weakened ; so that the Tone of the Stomach, by too frequent Repetition of this Practice, is wholly lost.

I SHALL forbear to mention the many Instances that may be given of those that have lost their Lives under the Operation of Vomits.

'Tis

'Tis confess'd, the Doctor many Times gives Satisfaction to the Patient, by shewing the slimy Matter that is brought off the Stomach upon the Points of Feathers ; whereas that Matter is necessary to promote Digestion. Let it be considered, for what End were those little Cells formed in the Crusta Villofa ; surely not to be kept empty, neither to be filled with what's of no Use or Benefit to Mankind.

“ TAKE Salt of Wormwood two Drams,  
 “ Juice of Lemon six Ounces ; take a Spoon-  
 “ ful of this every Hour : Or take of Spring-  
 “ Water half a Pint, *Mynsicht's* Elixir of  
 “ Vitriol a large Tea Spoonful : Take this  
 “ in the Morning, at Five in the Afternoon,  
 “ and at Bed-Time : Or take *Mynsicht's*  
 “ Tincture of Steel, Elixir Proprietatis,  
 “ equal Quantities ; take this in Water, as  
 “ before, but double the Quantity. Crude  
 “ Mercury, taking an Ounce every Day,  
 “ exceeds all, taken in any Vehicle.”

# DISEASES of the INTESTINES, de affectibus Intestinorum.

THESE shall be placed in one Chapter, by Reason of the Nearness of their Relation to each other.

THE Duodenum is a Gut, so call'd from its Mensuration, being almost twelve Inches in Length.

THE Jejunum is so term'd, because it is rare to find any Excrement in it.

AUTHORS have seldom taken Notice of any Distemper incident to these two Bowels.

THE third is the Ileon, & *circumferendo*. In this Intestine is seated the most painful and dangerous Disease, call'd the Iliac Passion ; and by some, the *Miserere mei*, from the acute Pains it gives the Patient. *Exper-tus loquor.*

IT begins with Vomitings, with a great Pain about the Navel ; which increasing, at last the Patient vomits up his Excrements, or any Clyster given ; and then it is incurable.

THIS

THIS does not proceed, as some People will have it, from a Twist in the Intestine, by Reason of the Misery adhering to it ; but it is caused from an Inversion of the Peristaltick or Vermicular Motion, which naturally moves downwards. Now, this being turned upwards, the Excrement being carried before it, presses on the Valves of the Intestines, which, together with its being contracted within itself, gives that miserable and intolerable Pain.

THE next of the Intestines is called the Cœcum, or Blind Gut. This hangs more like a Soldier's Knap-sack, from the other Intestines ; the Excrement passes in and out the same Way : I don't know that it is liable to any Distemper.

AFTER this, comes the Colon, *ab impediendo* ; because it hinders the Excrement from passing too quick : Without this Retention of the Excrement, we should be always subject to Diarrhœa's or Loosenesses.

THE Disease incident to this Intestine, is called Cholera Morbus, the Cholick.

Of this there are two Kinds ; either Bileous, or Hysterical ; or when in Men, Hypo-

chondriacal. As their Causes are widely different, so are the Methods of Cure.

THE Rectum, or Streight Gut, in great Weaknesses, is apt to fall down, which we call Procidentia Ani, and is known to every one that has it; and therefore needs no Description.

THE Sphinctre-Muscle is very subject to the Hæmorrhoides, or Piles, both within and without, which many Times cause Fistula's in the Part.

## Diseases of the Intestines.

### *The Iliac Passion.*

YOU need go no further for the Cure of this fatal Disease, than to take a Pound, or a Pound and half of Crude Mercury.

### *The CHOLICK.*

“ **F**OR the first of these, take Rheubarb,  
“ **F** Cream of Tartar, Liquorish, Co-  
“ riander-Seeds, powder all these very fine;  
“ take half a Dram Night and Morning in  
“ a Glass

“ a Glass of Wine: Or take Black-Cherry-  
 “ Water, Mint-Water, of each two Ounces,  
 “ strong Cinnamon-Water, Liquid Laudan-  
 “ num twenty Drops; take this at Night  
 “ going to Bed; or take the Salt of Worm-  
 “ wood, as prescribed in Diseases of the Sto-  
 “ mach, for the other.

## *The Streight Gut,*

**I**S often infested with little white flat Worms, call'd *Ascarides*, which are destroy'd by the following Clyster: Boil Quicksilver in Water in an Earthen Pot for two Hours; give it by way of Clyster.

THE Case of Miss *Corbet* was so very remarkable, that it made a very great Noise all over the Town, insomuch that the Gentlemen of the Faculty seem'd to be much alarmed. The Right Honourable the Lady *Louisa Barkeley*, being left off by other Physicians; and the Right Honourable the Lady *Rachel Mannors*, being likewise left off by her Physicians; it was agreed on all Hands, that I kept them alive several Days longer

than was expected by any Person about them, The Lord *Irwin* died of the Small Pox near the same Time; as did the Duke of *Rutland*, and Mr. *Mansel* of a great *Welsh* Family. Great Endeavours were used to saddle me with the Death of these three Gentlemen: It was given out by the Apothecaries, that I had kill'd all three of them, by introducing a new Method of Practice; whereas, to the best of my Knowledge, I never saw the Face of either of them.

I NEVER affronted any Apothecary, unless ordering too little Physick; and curing a Patient too soon, is, in their Way of Thinking, an unpardonable Crime. I must confess, I never could bring an Apothecary's Bill to three Pounds, in a Fever; whereas I have known some of their Bills, in this Disease, amount to forty, fifty, and sixty Pounds. If they can't cure with less Charges, I can't forbear saying, That I have the same Opinion of their Integrity, as I have of their Understanding.

SINCE these Gentlemen have been pleas'd to take such Liberties with my Character, I think I have an equal Right, or that, at least, it will be pardonable in me, if I endeavour

to lay open their Iniquities to the World. When I have attended some of my Patients, they have very often given it as a Reason for not seeing me, That I do not prescribe every Time that I visit them ; and have likewise told me, That they learned this Doctrine from the Apothecary, *That 'tis your Writing-Physician only, who has a Title to a Fee.* I must own, at first Sight, this carries a very good Face with it, and must naturally create in Patients a great Opinion of the Apothecary, who seems, in this Respect, to act merely out of Regard to their Welfare, and not from any View to the Doctor's Interest, or his own. But to me it appears very plainly a Deceit, however plausible to others ; and, to make it clear to you, only consider, that if the Physician writes, it must be ten or twelve Shillings at least in the Apothecary's Way ; and, for my Part, I don't look upon this to be at all better than picking one Man's Pocket, to put Money into another's.

Now I appeal to each unprejudic'd Reader, Whether, if a Physician must be compell'd to vary his Prescriptions, when there is no Occasion for it, he is not consequently left under the greatest Uncertainty, and un-

capable of judging what may, or may not be, of benefit to his Patient ? So that if such a Practice does not prove fatal to the Patient, he runs at least a very great Hazard of his Life.

'Tis my Opinion, the less Apothecaries Gains are, the better the Patients may afford to see their Doctor. I know very well, I am no sooner called to a Patient, but it reported immediately, He is dead, and I have killed him ; as in the Case of Sir John Bunt, very lately, who was struck with the Dead Palsey : However, in four Days, his Senses were perfectly restored to him ; and in twelve Days he had the same Motion, Life, and Sensation, on that Side which was struck, as on the Side that was not affected.

IF by what I have said, I have disengaged all the Apothecaries in the Kingdom, I have not many more Enemies amongst them, than I had before. If it should be ask'd now, What was the original Grounds of their Dislike to me ? I can give no other Reason, than my being always inviolably attach'd to the Interest and Welfare of my Patient, and entirely regardless of these Gentlemen's unwar-rantable Gains.

IF after all that has been said, I am still to be recommended by Apothecaries, and must depend entirely upon their good Word, I can assure the World, I shall soon retire; where none, except the Poor, will have any Assistance from me.

I AM very sensible, my Method in curing Fevers is much exploded, because I act quite contrary to the common Practice. I happen'd to live in *Gloucestershire*, in the Years 1728 and 1729; when a very fatal Epidemi-  
cal Fever raged to such a Degree, as to sweep off whole Families, nay, almost whole Villages. I was called to several Houses, where eight or nine Persons were down at a Time, and yet did not so much as lose one Patient where I was concern'd. I defy the Malice of my most implacable Enemies to make it appear, that in my Ten Years last Practice, I have lost Twelve Patients, in all Kinds of Fevers put together.

THE Case of *John-Dineley Goodeere Esq;* of *Charlton* in *Worcestershire*, near *Evesham*, was very remarkable: Some Years ago, when he was in *London*, he was seized with a violent Fever: He was unwilling that Sir *Ed-  
ward Goodeere*, his Father, who was in Town

at the same Time, should know any Thing of it ; so that he was, as it were, *in Extremis* before his Father was acquainted with it. He order'd me immediately to be called to his Son, whose Eyes were set in his Head, his Jaw fallen, his Tongue directly black and hard, his Face as black as an *Indian*, with round Drops upon it as big as Pease or Pulse. The Apothecary being present, I asked him if he blooded. He told me, Yes ; and accordingly got every Thing in order for it. I bid him take Care to make a large Orifice, which he did. He asked me how much Blood he must take away. I answer'd, I could not tell. He said he had taken off twelve Ounces. I said, Let the Patient bleed on. The Apothecary now told me, he had drawn twenty Ounces. Then I discern'd something of a Pulse coming on in my Patient. In the Conclusion, he bled to forty-eight or fifty Ounces. The Sweat went off, and his Face came to its Colour. Whilst he was bleeding, I got a Cool Tankard of Rhenish-Wine, Water, and Lemon, which held near three Quarts : I rais'd him upon his Pillow, and gave him about a Pint-Glass full ; and immediately after he began to move his Eyes, and cloſe his Jaws.

Jaws. In a very short Time after, I gave him a couple of Glasses more. He then fixed his Eyes hard upon me, put his Hand out to me, and said, *Is it you, my dear Friend?* I asked him, *If he could drink.* He answer'd, *The Ocean.* I made those about him rub his Head with dry Cloths, and then asked how he found himself. He answer'd, *In a strange confused Condition.* In one Hour, or thereabouts, he flung the Clothes off the Bed, put his Feet in his Slippers, call'd for his Night-Gown, walked to the other Side of the Room, set himself down in a two-arm'd Chair, *Now, my dear Friend,* (says he,) *we will have one Flask of Claret together.* I told him, *I would drink a Flask of Claret;* but that he must stick to his Cool Tan-kard.

THE next Morning, when I came to wait on him, he was down in the Stable amongst his Horses, without a Cap, having nothing on but his Night-Gown and Slippers. I asked him, *How he did?* He said, *Never better in all his Life.* This was in the Month of March. Now, this is term'd a desperate Way of Practice; but then they who condemn

damn it, should give an Instance of any one I have lost by such Methods.

WHEREAS some People have maliciously reported, That *John-Dineley Goodere Esq;* instead of the most violent Fever that I ever saw, labour'd only under a Fit of Drunkenness: To convince them of their Error, I have here inserted a Paper written by Sir *Edward Goodere*, and which he deliver'd to me with his own Hands. Take it in his own Words:

“ **H**AVING read my Son's Case in Dr. *Dover's Legacy*, I do affirm what he has set down to be literally true: And this I insert for the Good of all Mankind in such a Case.

*Edward Goodere.*

THERE is nothing more certain, than that the whole Animal Creation is liable to divers Kinds of Diseases; and it is as certain, that the Almighty Goodness has afforded Animals such Appetitions of Nature, or Instinct,

stinct, that we daily see they have Recourse to such Remedies, whereby they recover their Health. Birds resort to their several Sorts of Castings, when their Stomachs are deprav'd; in Fevers, to Cold-Bathing; or when they have gorged themselves with too much Food, then to their Weatherings on the Tops of high Trees. Let but a Lady's Lap Dog go out in the Fields, he shall search every where to find out the *Gramen Caninum*, or *Dog-Grass*, of which he shall eat till he both vomits and purges. As for the *Reptilia*, those small Animals, there is no Doubt to be made, but they have also their Remedies. Now, by our Treatment of the several Diseases incident to us, it seems as if Providence had exempted us from this great Benefit afforded to the subordinate Creatures. If we have a Fever, we must be kept close, and ply'd with the most heating Remedies; be denied cooling and diluting Liquors, and every Thing else that we call for with the greatest Earnestness. This is contradicting the Rules of Nature, and most certainly wrong. Right Reason, and the Rules of Nature will eternally tally.

I AM credibly inform'd, The most learned and ingenious Dr. Boerhaave, in all Fevers bleeds plentifully, gives Air to his Patients immediately, tears off all Blisters, and indulges the sick Person with all manner of cooling and diluting Liquors.

THE Remedies that have been prescribed for the several Distempers mention'd in this Treatise, may, with God's Blessing upon them, be depended on as very efficacious in the Cure of each particular Disease, unless a Person has a Complication of Distempers upon him at once. But I must give the Reader one Caution, That there is a great Difference in the several Constitutions of Mankind; and therefore it must be left to every Man's Discretion, as to the Quantity he is to take of each of these Medicines.

I HAVE gone through most of the Distempers common to the Climate we live in; and have shewn, at the same Time, what is the most likely Method of curing them; and hope, that as to the Plainness of my Style, and making the Descriptions intelligible, I have been as good as my Promise made in the Beginning of this Treatise.

I do not seek for Applause from this Performance, especially from the Gentlemen of the Faculty, being sensible how many great and powerful Enemies I have amongst them: Who, as they have done all they could hitherto to discredit my Practice, so probably will take Occasion, from the Publication of these Sheets, to improve their Invectives and Resentments against me: But as Custom has made ill Usage familiar to me, I think I am prepared for any future Calumny. In the mean Time I would caution unwary People against one Thing; which is, Not to mistake every Graduate for a Physician, nor a Clan of prejudiced Gentlemen for Oracles. Experience is all in all; and I will venture to say some Experience has fallen to my Share, having sought it in other Places besides the Shops of Apothecaries, or the Colleges of Physicians.

# POSTSCRIPT.

**H**A VING omitted the following Letter from *Anthony Balam Esq;* in *Great-Russel-Street*, which I design'd to have inserted when I was speaking of *Quicksilver*, I shall give it my Readers in this Place.

*London, 15 April, 1732.*

*SIR,*

“ **Y**OU have always undoubtedly great Satisfaction in hearing Success attend your Advice, especially in obstinate Chronic Cases, which have long baffled the Power of Physick.

“ I therefore think my self indispensibly obliged to give you that Pleasure, so much your Due, in reciting the Effects of your Prescription:

“ You will, I am sure, excuse me from the difficult Attempt of explaining my Case; which, were I able to execute, would be needless to you, who are so well acquainted with it. Let it therefore suffice to say, That my Asthma has been from

" from my Infancy, and at different Times  
 " has afflicted me under all the various  
 " Shapes that Distemper exhibits in all the  
 " Patients I ever yet convers'd with, and  
 " that I never found any very sensible Re-  
 " lief from Physick. Some Time in De-  
 " cember last was Twelve-months, you ad-  
 " vised me to take Quicksilver : I happily  
 " resolv'd to follow this Advice, and imme-  
 " diately found great Relief. Other Disor-  
 " ders, after some Time using it, intervening,  
 " occasion'd some Interruptions in my  
 " Course; and from *June* till *October*, being  
 " in the Country, I quite forbore the Use of  
 " it; but at that Time I again began taking  
 " it an Ounce *per Day*, and have hitherto  
 " continued it with very few Interruptions :  
 " The Consequence of which is, that from  
 " the first Time of taking it, to this Instant, I  
 " never had any violent Fit ; and during all  
 " the last Winter, I have not been confined,  
 " otherwise than through Precaution, to  
 " avoid the Inclemencies of very bad Wea-  
 " ther, or upon slight Attacks, when Rest is  
 " always preferable to any the least Motion.  
 " My Complaints, though very greatly di-  
 " minish'd, I cannot say are absolutely re-

“ mov’d ; I have had frequent Symptoms  
 “ threatening me, and especially this Spring,  
 “ the Variableness of the Weather being al-  
 “ ways a great Enemy to me. But happy  
 “ in a high Degree is my present Condition,  
 “ when compared with my former. To you  
 “ I am indebted for this Happiness ; and I  
 “ shall be always ready to make such Ac-  
 “ knowledgments of it, as the most grate-  
 “ ful Sense can inspire.

“ IF you think my Name may do any Ser-  
 “ vice, in encouraging other Sufferers to try  
 “ a Remedy, which, by my Experience in  
 “ a long Use, proves not only very innocent  
 “ of the Charge of bringing on other bad  
 “ Consequences, but likewise the sole effica-  
 “ cious one in this lamentable Disorder, you  
 “ are very welcome to make such Use of it  
 “ as you may think proper.

“ I HAVE the Liberty to mention another  
 “ Gentleman’s Name, who, through my  
 “ Means, and by Encouragement from me,  
 “ has reaped a much greater Advantage from  
 “ your Advice than my self. Mr. More,  
 “ who lives at *Epsom*, has been troubled  
 “ from his Infancy with an Asthma in an  
 “ extream Degree. About last *February* was

“ Twelve-month he began the Use of  
 “ Quicksilver ; he has taken it ever since,  
 “ with very few Interruptions : He has from  
 “ that Time had but two small Fits ; the  
 “ last was in *August* past, and was the least  
 “ of the two : Since that Time he has not  
 “ had one Asthmatick Symptom ; and from  
 “ not being able scarcely ever to walk, he  
 “ has, for his Diversion, walk'd from *Lon-*  
 “ *don* to *Epsom*.

“ I wish you may soon produce so many  
 “ other Examples of such Cures, as may  
 “ overcome all Prejudices and groundless  
 “ Fears, and propagate the merited Credit of  
 “ so salutiferous a Remedy. I am,

SIR,

*Your most obliged,*

*and very humble Servant,*

To Dr. DOVER.

ANTHONY BALAM.

SIR,

THOUGH a Stranger to the Nature of Quicksilver, and its Manner of Operation ; yet being fully convinced of its Power and Advantage from Experience, (which is generally esteemed the best Master,) I think I should be ungrateful to GOD, and unjust to you and Mankind, should I be silent amidst the Clamours and Artifices which are made use of to lessen your Reputation, and deter the World from being benefited by one of the best Remedy's, perhaps, in Physicks, if I may be allowed to speak what I know : And I have had a long and frequent Experience of it in many Cases in my own Family ; more particularly in a Niece of mine, who was with me some Time for Education, who, from a Fever which she for Years together was annually subject to, and was so reduced, that her Life was despaired of, she finding no Benefit from all she took, you may remember, Sir, you was called in, and by taking of Quicksilver by your Advice for fourteen Mornings together, and afterwards *Mynsicht's* Elixir of Vitriol, with frequent Bleeding, she was restored to, and, by

by GOD's Blessing, still enjoys a healthy Constitution : I had likewise a Nephew, who lay three Weeks in a most languishing Condition ; his Body was distorted, his Hip and Shoulder being almost drawn together ; no Help could be found, (though no Advice or Assistance was wanting,) till, by your Direction, he took Quicksilver, which in three Mornings set him perfectly strait, and has remained so ever since. If you think making this publick may be of any Service, you have my free Consent to do with it as you will, who am,

SIR,

*Your most obliged*

*London, March 10.*

*1732.*

*bumble Servant,*

Jo. POTT.

To Dr. THOMAS DOVER,  
These.

SIR,

I HAD the Gout in my Stomach and Bowels for a considerable Time, insomuch that I had two Physicians with me for six Weeks: They gave me all the heating Medicines they could contrive or think of; but all to no Purpose; so that at the last, I was brought to extreme Faintings and Cold Sweats that I wetted a Pair of Sheets in an Hour.

A very worthy neighbouring Gentleman hearing of my miserable Condition, came to see me, and perswaded me to take two Ounces of Quicksilver; which I accordingly did, and found Relief thereby in four Hours Time, and in three Days all the gouty Matters were thrown down into my Feet. Upon which I persisted in taking of Quicksilver; and have ever since enjoy'd a good State of Health, which is for near two Years Space. I am,

SIR,

Your humble Servant,

Celne, in Wiltshire,  
April 20. 1733.

HARVEY.

To Dr. DOVER in London.

SIR,

Lewisham, Feb. 14th,  
1732-3.

S. I. R,

A Gentleman the other Day put a Book into my Hands, that lately came out against taking of Quicksilver: I think the Author very bold, since there are so many living Evidences that have received such Benefit, when nothing else would afford them Ease.

I have been troubled with an Asthma from my Infancy; and have consulted many of the most noted Physicians of my Time, both at Home and Abroad, without the least Relief: My Fits used to attack me in fourteen, sixteen, or twenty-one Days, without being able to go to Bed for two or three Days and Nights. On the Twenty-first of *April* last, in a violent Fit, I took an Ounce of Crude Mercury, and have continued it. I am so happy to know nothing of an Asthma since *June* last, notwithstanding I have caught several severe Colds this Winter.

I MAKE bold to trouble you with this for the sake of other poor Sufferers, least they might be frighten'd from so beneficial a Remedy to Mankind.

I NEED not acquaint you, Sir, of the Safety of the Quicksilver ; but I assure you, in the Absence of my Fits, all my Life-Time, I lived freely ; and since my taking it, have never gone one Jot out of my Road either in Eating or Drinking ; but never knew what it was to enjoy Health before.

I THOUGHT myself obliged to return you my hearty Thanks : For 'tis to you I enjoy my present happy Condition, and shall always be proud to acknowledge it ; and know many more are ready to destroy all Prejudices against it. *I am,*

SIR,

*Your most obliged*

*Humble Servant,*

WILL. MOSES.

*P. S.* I am removed from Greenwich to Lexham ; shall always be proud to kiss your Hand.

*To Dr. DOVER, in London,  
These.*

*SIR,*

S I R,

I SEND you my promised Case, a very sad one formerly ; but now, (Thanks be to GOD, and to his Kindness under whose Cover I convey this to you,) it is so much mended, and the Means of Relief so plainly in my own Power, that I live a very comfortable Life, in comparison of the long Time I was troubled very grievously with an Asthma.

ABOUT twenty-five Years ago it first came and fix'd upon me ; a violent Cold and Catarrh brought it ; and the Misfortune of no good Advice for a Cure, settled and confirmed it.

AT first I had it most in Town, and in the Winter ; but the Country and Summer always gave me Ease for two or three Years together.

AFTERWARDS, upon a great Cold taken, my Asthma became periodical, and followed me every where with very little Variation.

IT was of the spitting, flatulent Kind, always attended with a Fever, and sometimes, I thought, convulsive : What made me to judge so was, that in great Struggles, when I could extend my Arms, and with my

Hands

Hands grasp any Thing hard, bending my Body low and forward, for the freer Play of the Lungs, I breathed easier.

To tell you all my Sufferings, and Endeavours for Ease in that unhappy State, would be too tedious. In short, I was so ill, and had so many Friends concern'd for me, that I wanted no Advice, and left none untried : I run through long Courses of Physick, of all the Kinds, and at all Hazards ; and by many rash and indiscreet Doings of my own, as well as of my Advisers, I soon reduced a strong, vigorous, and active Constitution, to a very lazy, weak, and crazy one. At last having observed, that I was never better than when I eat and drank very sparingly of Animal Food and Spirituous Liquors, I began to live very low, and to drink Water with my Wine, the best Julep in the World ; and this doing, was of great Service to me, not only when Asthma, or the Fears of it, were most upon me, but at all other better Times : The more scrupulously I observ'd it, the better I fared ; and the weaker always proved the next Attacks of my old Tormenter. I had taken no little Pleasure for some

Time

Time in this Experiment, when I was advised to add to it the Use of *Belloste's* Pills. I did so, and they proving beneficial, I learnt from them to take Crude Mercury; which I prefer in my own particular Case to *Belloste's* Pills, because of the Purgative Quality of them; which does not suit me so well, though it may be very proper for many Constitutions stronger than mine. On this very Account I tried the *Æthiops Mineralis* also; but whether there was too little Mercury, or too much Sulphur, in the Mixture, I set it aside for the Crude Mercury alone, which I have now taken since last *May* more constantly, and with better Observance than when I first used it, or rather play'd with it, sometimes half an Ounce Night and Morning; sometimes an Ounce in the Morning only; intermitting now and then a Fortnight, and then again a Month; but I have continued taking two Months together. I now take it either occasionally, that is, when I observe the first Symptoms of Wheezing and Short-breathing, which never fail to be the Effect of the least overcharging of my Stomach, or the eating or drinking strong

Meats

Meats and Liquors, more than a Taste : Or I take it by Way of Prevention, two or three Doses in a Fortnight. For this very Reason, I took an Ounce last Night, and another this Morning ; so that I can truly tell you, upon the Whole, and God's Blessing, upon Low Life and Crude Mercury, for these two Years last past, I have comfortably slept in my Bed every Night, but one, or two at most.

I have no Fits like unto the former : I have expectorated more easily, and less by nine Parts in ten, than I used to do. And what besides is very observable, and a very great Encouragement to me, I am but rarely sensible of that Feverish Disposition I, for so many Years before, was always complaining of ; and Asthma has no more its usual Periods.

I think I have now tried your Patience sufficiently ; but I was willing to let you know how much I have tried Crude Mercury, to be an Instance of its inoffensive Quality, at least ; and, if not, of all that Efficacy upon my Distemper I could wish, yet of much Good it has done me, and still does me.

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It has not quite cured me ; and perhaps never will : But so long as I can keep by it all my former Fears at a comfortable Distance, and safely nip and check them in the very Bud, I shall have more Reason to continue the Use of it, than they can have who would forbid it. I heartily wish you good Success in your Prescriptions of it, and am,

SIR,

*Your most humble Servant,*

*April 19. 1733.  
at Shenfield.*

J. LA PORTE.

To Dr. DOVER.

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SIR,

I Should be very ungrateful, if I did not acknowledge the great Benefit and Advantage I have receiv'd from your Advice and Direction, in taking Crude Mercury. I have for many Years been troubled with strong Scorbustick Humours, but more particularly so all last Summer : And the Beginning of the Winter the Humour was so strong

strong and violent, in and about my Right Knee, that the Joint was almost quite stiff, so that I could scarce walk ; and it was with great Pain and Difficulty when I went up any Steps that were any thing higher than ordinary : And at Night I had a good deal of Pain, and Uneasiness in turning my self in Bed. After my first Application to you, about last *Christmas*, I immediately took, according to your Direction, one Ounce of Crude Mercury every Morning. By the Time I had taken twelve or fourteen Ounces, I found my self abundantly better ; and before I had taken two Pounds, I was quite well : All the Stiffness, Uneasiness, and Pain, I had in my Knee was quite gone, and my Leg as well and as strong, I think, as ever it was in my Life. — For several Years I used to have a good deal of white Scurf in my Hands, in the Spring ; and therefore I thought proper to continue taking the Crude Mercury ; and now, this last Spring, I have not the least Scurf in my Hands, or any where whatsoever.

I have taken in all about five Pounds of Crude Mercury ; and, in my Opinion, in  
stubs

stubborn Chronic Cases, there is no Remedy so good ; and, I am sure, nothing can be more pleasant and agreeable ; for, in the taking, I have never been in the least sick or uneasy ; never confined so much as a Quarter of an Hour ; nor never in the least interrupted, either in Business or Pleasures. I heartily wish you equal Success with your other Patients, and am,

SIR,

*Your most obliged*

*Piccadilly, May 10.*

*1733.*

*humble Servant,*

BENJ. BENSON.

*P O S T S C R I P T.*

*Henry Bossenburg* (my Servant) has also had very great Benefit from Crude Mercury. For these last three or four Years, he has had great Pains in his Head and Eyes, Pains and Contractions in his Legs, a voracious Stomach, eat a vast deal of Victuals, but never agreed with him ; could get little or no Rest or Sleep at Night, and commonly feverish, a great deal

deal of Pain in his Back and Kidneys, and in the Groin. He has taken about three Pound of Crude Mercury, and has found a most astonishing Cure. He has voided, at Times, a vast deal of small red Gravel, and slimy corrupt Matter, and a great deal of Stuff, which appear'd to him to be a Sort of Worms. His Pains have all left him; what he eats agrees with him: He sleeps well at Night; and has perfectly recover'd his Health and Strength.

To Dr. DOVER.

S I R,

*Red-Lyon Square,  
May 16. 1733.*

**T**H E Benefits I have received from the the taking of Crude Quicksilver, and the firm Opinion I have of the Usefulness of that Medicine in all Chronical Cases, and Distempers proceeding from Obstructions, would render me unpardonable, should I refuse to let the Particulars of my Case be published in the Work you have informed me is now in the Press.

THE

THE Original, Sir, of my Illness was a Cold, contracted by laying in damp Sheets, which was followed with a little feverish Indisposition. To remove which, I sent for Dr. *Mullens*, of *Salisbury*, for whom I have a very great Esteem, and whose Advice is generally attended with Success. He thought proper to treat this lurking Fever with the Salts and cool Regimen ; but instead of yielding to the Medicines, it soon was accompanied with a very strong Hysterick Cafe, and violent Pains in my Bowels and Stomach, which I could liken to nothing but a Pin's being drove through me about the Navel. In this Condition I was brought up to *London*, and put myself into the Hands of Dr. *Mead* and Dr. *Monroe* ; and from the just Eminency they have both acquired in their Profession, as well as the intimate Friendship I have many Years had with the latter, I flattered myself with Relief from those Pains, which now constantly attended me. Those Gentlemen were of Opinion that my Fever was only Symptomatical ; and that my Distemper arose from Obstructions in some of the Secretory Vessels ; which Opinion was justified by the Success ; for on giving me

warm Medicines, the feverish Symptoms left me, and my Spirits were much easier and free : But still my Pains continued. I was attended by a severe Costiveness, or rather a total Stoppage, unless forced by the Methods uscd in such Cases. I grew exceedingly emaciated, and could not, without Difficulty, cross my Chamber : They then thought it advisable to send me to *Bath* ; the Fatigue of which Journey brought all my Feverish Symptoms again upon me. To remove which my good Friend, Dr. *Bave*, thought proper to give me the Bark, which I have formerly observed to have an odd Effect on my Constitution ; and either that Drug, or my Distemper, immediately took away the Use of my Hands, so that for many Weeks, I could not sign my Name. I drank the *Bath* Waters regularly for ten Weeks ; I cannot say they disagreed with me ; but I grew weaker ; all my Complaints continued, with the Addition of a violent Pain in the Soles of my Feet, and Palms of my Hands, with such a Numbness in my Fingers and Toes, that I could not perceive any Life or Circulation of the Blood in them. In this Condition I was prevailed with by a Friend to

try what Effect Crude Quicksilver would have on me ; and took three Quarters of an Ounce every Morning for about twelve Days. The third Morning I began to find my Fingers and Toes tingle, and a Warmth in them, which I had not felt for many Weeks ; my Secretions were all well performed, as when in the State of my best Health : I could eat in five or six Days a boil'd Chicken, drink a Half-Pint of Wine, and slept well, which I had not done for a Quarter of an Hour, during my whole Illness, but when obtained by Opiats : My Pains left me, and no Complaints, except a great Weakness, remained.

NOTWITHSTANDING the Success I found, I suffer'd myself to be perswaded, that the Use of a Medicine of that Specifick Gravity, might be attended with very ill Consequences, and that now the Obstructions were removed, the usual Methods of Physick would perform the rest. I left off the taking of my Quicksilver ; and the Weather growing hot, left the *Bath*, and came for *London*, but found myself grow every Day worse, and all my Complaints returned. I again put myself into the Hands of the two Gentlemen, whose Advice

I before had had ; who, I do believe, did all that the Power of Physick could attempt : But my Pains grew as intense as ever ; the Passages were again stopt ; I could not obtain one Hour's Sleep ; and I have been informed those Gentlemen declared to several of my Friends, that there was little Hopes of my Recovery. When I had gone on a Month in this Way, I resolved to try once more the Effect of Quicksilver : I took it again in the same Quantity ; and it produced in every Particular the same Effect : I continued taking it for seven Weeks every Morning ; and have enjoyed from that Time perfect Health : I have known it since taken with great Success in several Chronical Cases ; and particularly a remarkable Cure performed by it on a Lady, whose ill Digestion occasioned violent Pains in her Stomach for many Years, after eating, which this Medicine has wholly removed : I have also myself cured a Horse of the Glanders, by giving him an Ounce every Morning for a Month.

I HAVE given you the whole History of my Cafe ; and own, Sir, I look upon the Life I now enjoy to be owing to this Medicine. I find the Gentlemen knowing in the

Practice

Practice of Physick seem to dispute from what Quality or natural Power this Immature Metal can produce such Effects ? Give a Novice, Sir, leave to shoot his Bolt, and to suppose its Effects produced from the Sulphur this Mineral contains ; which, by many Experiments I have tried, I have found to be much purer than any of the Minerals, and even of most of the Metals : And if further Trials were made with that View, perhaps the Efficacy of the Medicine might be preserved, and the Objection that most of the Gentlemen of the Faculty make, of the Danger of Circulating so heavy a Fluid in the Blood Vessels, might be avoided.

*I am, SIR,*

*Your obliged*

*Humble Servant,*

EDWARD LISLE:

*For Dr. Dover at the Je-  
rusalem Coffee-House,  
London.*

York, May 4.

SIR,

1733.

YOU must have been under the strong Influence of some very inauspicious Planet, not your Friend Mercury: For what less could have hurried you into so inconfirate and rash a Resolution of publishing your Heterodox Notions and Practice in Phy-  
sick.

PERMIT a Friend to expostulate a little with you upon this melancholy Subject.

Does not the Faculty consist of Members actuated by the same Passions and Prejudices common to all other Men? Have they not an Interest distinct from that of the Community, as they in some measure subsist by the Calamities in the Publick? Are they less sensible than others, of the Ease and Convenience in pursuing their Ends, the Acquisition of Fame and Affluence, in Paths ready traced out to them, without the painful and industrious Application requisite in seeking new ones? And will they not consequently be obstinately tenacious of their old general-received Rules, strenuously defend them up-

on all Occasions, and treat every prying Reformer as a Traytor to themselves, and an Enemy to the Publick ?

INSTEAD of such Reflections as these, you may possibly have imagin'd, that they were all sincere Searchers after Truth, Encouragers of ingenious and diligent Enquiries, and always ready to embrace it when, and wherever found: That they were endow'd with an humble Opinion of their own Knowledge, join'd with a forbearing and a forgiving Temper towards such who differ from them; imputing all Real Errors to a misinform'd Judgment, and never uncharitably to a Pravity of Will and Morals. Though it will be readily allow'd, that there are some few such, Men of the greatest Ingenuity and Integrity, of exalted and improved Talents, an Honour to the Science they profess, and as worthy of our Esteem and Admiration, as the many low Craftsmen are of Contempt and Ridicule; yet, considering the great Disparity of Numbers, and Difference of Tempers, whatever your Thoughts at that Time may have been, you are surely now cured of the Infatuation, and convinc'd that

want of Orthodoxy in Physick, is as heinous and as unpardonable a Crime with the Generality of your Fraternity, as it is in Points of Doctrine with the Clergy.

If any Doubts still remain, (as a little Champion against you says it may be possible,) I imagine some Crude Mercury, which you often swallow, must have lodg'd in the Parts subservient to the Rational Faculties, and render'd you *Non compos*. What but a meer Phrenzy could raise in you so passionate a Concern for the Publick, (who are generally unthankful, or insensible of such Favours,) as to make you entirely regardless of your own Welfare? This Publick Spirit you will, I dare say, plead in Excuse for so false a Step: And it is, I own, what may be urg'd with a better Grace by you than your Opposers; for they swim in Shoals with the Current, and have the Approbation and Assistance of all, without Fears of losing in so unequal an Encounter: You, on the contrary, labour against the Stream, friendless and unaccompanied, and whoever meets you in his Way, helps to sink you.

A Declaration of Love for the Publick, attended with such Circumstances, you will say, may be allow'd to be sincere, while the violent Professions of it by others will be thought somewhat equivocal: They may, indeed, for Reasons very obvious, exert the best of their Skill to relieve People afflicted with acute Distempers (unwilling to be exactly like the Hangman, who sees his Patient but once,) and yet be not at all solicitous to keep them always in a healthy State, or to eradicate Chronical Disorders, which yield many Crops yearly.

But, in the mean Time, what Harvest are you to reap from this boasted Sincerity? Had you obtain'd the Fame of slaying your Thousands, and Ten thousands, in a regular Course, you might have purged, vomited, blooded, and flead without Censure: Even your Crude Mercury, had it been given without Success, or concealed, would not have opened one of these *Argos's* Eyes; whereas your recommending the Use of it in so undisguised a Way, and the rapid Progress it has made in curing many Disorders before thought to be incurable, exposes you to

to the Lash of many Tongues, and some Pens.

A Learned Doctor, in a Treatise on Mercury, sets forth the great Obligation Nurses and Grave-diggers have to you, and makes you as much their Friend as the late Epidemical Disorders. Think you that such an Advocate as the Antidote, or even the very ingenious *Cantabrigian*, can wipe out Stains of so deep a Dye ?

THE next is a Physical, Philosophical Barber-Surgeon, who in a lofty Strain tells the World, That the Physician is ordain'd by Almighty GOD ; and, that he proceeds by unerring Rules : But that there are some bold Intruders in this high Ordination, Strangers to these Rules, who relying on Guesses, he calls Quacks. And after giving a Sketch of his Medicinal Philosophy, his great Eru-dition, and pointed Wit, upon the Merit of using you very roughly, I presume, he builds his Hopes of stepping into the College in his Neighbourhood.

So sanguine are his Expectations of Success, that he thus early addresses himself to the Favour and Protection of the Apothecaries ;

ries; a Piece of Policy absolutely necessary in Young Practitioners, and not to be totally neglected by the most Venerable Sages of the Profession; for whose Reputation can long stand the Shock of an universal Charge rung upon their melodious Mortars?

Another, already dignified, from a Barber-Surgeon, turn'd into a Doctor, in grateful Remembrance of such his Advancement, employs his many leisure Hours in Service of the Fraternity. His avow'd Attempt is, to dispossess People of the good Opinion they have at present entertain'd of Quicksilver; wherein he follows the usual Method of first defaming and blasting the Credit of those who recommend it. Anger seems to have taken Possession of the whole Man, and left no Room for Reason; which being calm and cool, always flies terrified from so turbulent a Companion. Empyrick, Quack, and Noftrum-Monger, are Terms as opprobrious and irritating among Men of real Learning, as the more Vulgar Rhetorick is among the Fish-Women at *Billingsgate*; *Tantane animis medicantibus iræ?*

Poor *Belloste*, who died in Peace, where he long lived in Esteem, as a Man of Ingenuity

nuity and great Veracity, is the first who falls a Victim to his Wrath. He is set forth in the Character of an Empyrick, that his Medicine Quicksilver may be called Quackery : And as if it were much to the Purpose, his Philosophy is criticis'd, without giving any Attention to the Truth or Falsehood of the Facts quoted.

What Pretence can you have to more Favour than he has met with ? You who are among us daily, practising and inculcating what you have publish'd, must expect at least the like, if not more severe Usage : Your Legacy has spread too far to be longer treated with Contempt ; its further Progress therefore must be stopped by Censures ; every Thing you have said or done must be condemn'd ; notorious Facts contested, and render'd doubtful ; and your Reputation openly attack'd, purely with this View, that what you have asserted in relation to Quicksilver, may find no Credit.

Are you not in full Expectation of some such Physical Sophistry, in a Treatise shortly to be publish'd, which has been ushered into the World by many publick Advertisements,

ments, importunately inviting all Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries, and others, (if any others can be supposed to have Candour and Veracity equal with them,) to supply Cases in the Use of Quicksilver. The Candour of People interested must undoubtedly be great, if the Saying holds true, That *Interest will not lie.* That of the Publisher will be best shewed in remarking what Cases came to him from Apothecaries, &c. and what from Patients; that the Readers may judge for themselves, which most to rely on as genuine, and fairly stated. And

When he has compleated this Work, he would do well to shew his Impartiality and Publick Spirit, by collecting in the same Manner all Cases wherein Vomits have proved fatal, and Blisters occasioned Mortifications, and so on, strictly scrutinizing into the good or bad Success of many other commonly applied Remedies: But this is never to be expected. All fatal Miscarriages, purely owing to Medicine regularly prescribed, will be for ever valid. Such Miscarriages give no Offence; it is a Discovery how Cures may be easily attained without the Assistance of Doctors,

Doctors, which has gathered a Storm just ready to burst on your devoted Head.

I HOPE you may still avert the Danger, that these first Skirmishers may have abated your Courage ; and that you will not longer persist in courting Persecution, for the sake of the Publick ; but rather endeavour to mitigate the Correction of your Adversaries by a silent submissive Retreat from the Contest. It is prudent to fly with a few Wounds from the Outlyers only ; and, on the contrary, high Madness to molest and stand combating with a whole Nest of Hornets : However you may despise waspish Infects, when they are in great Numbers enraged and armed with poisonous Weapons, they are no contemptible Enemies.

THIS Letter, already grown long and tedious, I thought to have finished here ; but I am willing to say something first of myself. My Name you know, and Experience has shewed you some of my good Qualities ; but be not vainly inquisitive to know more of me ; for my Nature and Efficacy is Incomprehensible to human Faculties, and will eternally deride the studious Labours of the most curious Searchers into Mysteries.

If you torture me by Fire, and stop my Flight, can I do less than resent such cruel Usage by griping, rending, and in various Ways exerting my just Rage on the first Object I am let loose to ? Whereas unchanged by Art, and in the pure State Providence offers me, I am truly a Friend to Mankind, affording Comfort and Relief to most of the Miserable, who will have but as much Faith and Confidence in me, as they blindly repose in many Mixtures of Poissons.

WHEN called in Aid, and thus in a friendly Way admitted, I speedily and insensibly pervade the whole human System in pursuit of all Noxious Heterogeneous Intruders. None can long resist my Invincible Force, nor avoid the Combat by Absconding or Flight ; the most remote and imperceptable Recesses in the Labyrinth of the Nerves, are as accessible to me as the first more obvious Passages. Wherever, therefore, they may have become formidable by possessing an important Post in collected Numbers, I soon reach the Place, and as soon disunite them, and drive them out of the Body ; gaining a compleat Victory with so much Ease, that while this War is waging within, all seems to be

at Peace without : And when the Enemy is dislodged, I repair the Damages they may have done, by restoring to all Organs sufficient Vigour to execute their proper Functions.

NATURE sends me with her Commission, and ample Powers to enforce in all Places a punctual Observance of the Laws she has imposed ; in Consequence whereof, when I find the Stomach and Bowels in a State of Rebellion, bringing quick and inevitable Destruction upon the whole Constitution, I immediately reduce them to Obedience, and a peaceable Sate. Whenever any of the great Complexures of the Nerves by Intestine Jars have intangled themselves ; at my Approach they range into regular Order, and give mutual Assistance to each other in a friendly embracing Intercourse ; from thence all hideous Convulsive Agonies and Tremors cease, giving place to an universal Serenity.

I ROLL on without Controul, through Tubes inconceivably minute ; the very Avenues to the Seat of the rational Soul are open to me. I find free Ingress and Egress, and am always welcome to that noble Inhabitant, who is sensible of the Service I do her.

her, in rendering this her temporary Abode somewhat comfortable. Were it possible for you with a just Conception to follow my Track through these almost-infinite Meanders, your Admiration of this wonderful Machine would be exceeding great: And, how just would be your Indignation at the Presumption of some weak Men, who pretend to have unerring Rules for rectifying Disorders, the Situation of which they cannot possibly know; and philosophically to determine the exact Progress of what they send blended into this Road of Circulation; so numberless and intricately disposed are these Channels, and their mutual Communications, that the only Wonder is, that they should ever make a tolerable Guess.

HAVING thus indulged myself in expatiating on my good and powerful Properties, I will now fairly give you an Account of some Things which are indeed out of my Reach: I cannot give eternal Duration to a Material Body liable to daily Changes. In my Progress through the Heart, I cannot correct the Vices of it taken in a figurative Sense: It is not in my Power to give Courage to a Coward; to make a Knave honest;

nor to moderate the raging Passions in Men of persecuting Spirits : I cannot restrain the Volubility of a Tongue that hath an innate Propensity to Defamation ; nor urge a Restive one to a frank Declaration of Truths.

REAL Defects in the Gifts of Nature are not to be supplied, but by a creating Power : I cannot therefore cause a Limb that may be wanting, to grow forth : Nor can I fill an empty Cavity in the Head with Brains ; but should I make a Lodgment in so solitary and unfurnished an Appartment, the Owner need not be under any Apprehensions ; for Fools were never known to go mad : Free from all agitating Thoughts and Doubts they enjoy a profound Tranquility of Mind, and are happy in an undisturbed Conceit of being extremely wise. When you meet with Physical Phylosophers of this Clas\$, be not so ill-natur'd as to attempt to undeceive them : Let nothing divert you from your judicious Course of exploring my Virtues by Experience ; an uninterrupted Prosecution herein will produce Authorities sufficient to overcome the most obstinate Infidelity or wilful Blindness : And then your close Attention

to

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to my Service will be richly rewarded and gratefully acknowledged by

*Your true Friend,*

HYDRARGYRUM.

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SIR,

**A**S you have been so generous, as well as charitable, to bestow a greater Legacy than was ever given to the World before, by any English, I believe I may say *European* Physician, in which the Poor will, and already do equally share with the Rich, I think it a Duty incumbent on me to return you ten Millions of Thanks, not only for your Book, but also for the good Health I now enjoy from taking Quicksilver by the kind Advice of that worthy Gentleman, and your intimate Friend *Lucass Selfe Esq;* before the Publication of your Book: And if you can have Patience to read a very flat, but true State of my Case, I will give you all I can recollect, from the twentieth Year of my Age, to this present Time, being now fifty-three, *viz.* From twenty to thirty-five I drank

very hard ; in which last Year I had a very severe Fit of the Cholick in my Stomach ; and about two Years afterwards, some Crosses in my worldly Affairs, with drinking too much stale Beer, and sometimes *Port Wine*, brought that Distemper on me again ; which continued about seven Years, except some Intervals of Ease. At the Age of forty-two I left off all Sorts of Malt Liquor ; for even Small-Beer at my Meals would immediately put a Stop to Eating, and cause a violent Pain in my Stomach : Then, for about two Years I drank nothing but small Rum Punch, with a red-hot Iron put into it, (a Pint of Rum to a Gallon of Water, with Lemons and double-refin'd Sugar,) which agreed well with me. At the Age of Forty-four, having made too bold with *Port Wine*, I had a severe Fit of the Gout ; my Legs swelling alternately to double their proper Size : I have had but two or three such Fits of the Gout since. At Forty-four aforesaid, I left off small Punch, and at my Meals drank nothing but common fair Water, and sometimes a little Cyder between Meals, which agreed well with me, whilst I used much Exercise. But with a sedentary Life, my Appetite was

soon

soon gone ; but was soon recover'd again by drinking *Holt Water* at my Meals only. But in about three Months Time, that Water had no more Effect, than any other fair Water. And in the Winter, 1728. and Spring following, I was very ill with the then common Fever and Ague, which went off at last in a small Fit of the Gout. From whence I conclude, that something of that Distemper was in my Stomach during that Sickness, for I often vomited very much. In the latter End of the Summer, 1729. the Fever and Ague returned again, (attended, as I suppose, with the Gout in my Stomach,) which continued some Time. In *October*, 1729. (having but little Exercise,) I was often taken with cold Chills, and great Pains in my Stomach, which Purges and Vomits would remove, but it would soon return again. The latter End of *November* following I was taken in a different Manner than ever before ; viz. with Heart-Burnings, Wind, and soure Belchings, and my Mouth often filled with clear Water ; which Water soon left me, after taking an Electuary, and now and then Lozenges ; but the Heart-burning and Pain in my Stomach continued. Upon which I

took a Vomit, and applied a Glyster ; but could find no Ease 'till I took forty Drops at a Time of Species Diambre, with Tincture of Snake-Root, compound Spirit of Lavender and Liquid Laudinum in a Draught of Sparemint Tea ; which was repeated as often as the Pain returned, 'till I thought myself perfectly well : But in twenty-four Hours afterwards, my Stomach was uneasy, my Mouth full of Water in the Morning, and Urine very thick : The next Day my Stomach was in great Pain, which was eased by taking forty of the Drops aforesaid. *December* the 8th, 1729. I began to take every Night and Morning four Pills composed of the Gum-Pill, &c. in a Glafs of Bitter Wine, and continued the same 'till the Fifteenth, when I left them off ; and then the Stomach-Ach and Cold Chills all over my Body came on again. *January* the 4th, 1729. I found my Breath stink in the Morning ; had good Appetite, but very bad Disgestion ; and the Pain in my Stomach began to come on me again. Thus I continued (sometimes pretty well, at other Times ill, never well above two or three Days at one Time,) 'till the Beginning of *May*, 1730. when being in greater Pain

Pain than common, I took three Vomits in one Week, which eased me for some Time. The 20th of *May* I took a stronger Vomit than before, which had no other Effect than the former. Then I applied to an eminent Physician, whose Prescription was strictly observed; and I received great Benefit by it: But soon after I had gone through the whole Course, my Pains returned again, and I became as bad as ever. And being almost Blind, which I attribute to frequent Vomits, (being often taken three or four times in a Week,) could not bear the Thoughts of entering into that Course any more; and, expecting that Death would relieve me in a short Time, bore my Affliction as well as I could. But in the Month of *March*, 1730-1. I was advised by the Gentleman aforesaid to take Crude Mercury; the very Name of which was then so terrible to most People in this Country, that all I spoke to of it persuaded me against it, except one or two of Dr. *Dover*'s Acquaintance; nor would Money, (enough of which was offered to tempt any mean Person to take as loathsome a Draught as an Apothecary could make up,) prevail upon any one to take it before me:

This hindered me a Month ; during all which Time the Gout in my Stomach put me to the most exquisite Pain imaginable, for two, three, and sometimes four times every Day, with restless Nights ; 'till *Monday the Twelfth of April, 1731.* about Ten at Night, in presence of Mr. *Selfe*, aforesaid, and several other Gentlemen and Ladies, I boldly swallowed two Ounces of Crude Mercury, went to Bed about eleven, was perfectly easy, and slept heartily all that Night, which ( so far as I can remember ) was more than I had done in twelve Months before ; which sudden Change was owing, as I take it, to the Mercury's expelling the Wind in my Stomach as soon as it arrived there. I was easy the next Day, though my Stomach continued tender. About Noon, which was about fourteen Hours after I took it, I found some few very small Globules of the Mercury in the latter Part of my Stool, the Excrement being very hard. I continued taking two Ounces every Day for six Days together, and never failed of a Stool every Day, which seldom used to be more than once in three, four, and sometimes five Days. I saved most of my Water, during this Operation, in the

Sediment

Sediment of which I found some Globules of Mercury, much smaller than those mentioned before, and am well satisfied that it passes through the Ureters. Thus was I relieved from the violent Gouty Pains in my Stomach by Crude Mercury only ; and as the Weather grew warmer, by taking now and then three, four, or five Doses, my Stomach grew stronger, and my Constitution was so much amended in all Respects, that all my Acquaintance were struck with Admiration : Abundance of Questions were continually asked me, by People of all Ranks, many of them having entertained a Notion that it was rank Poison, and present Death to any one that should take it ; that it would pass through the Body as fast as it was put into the Mouth ; others would tell me, that I should find the ill Effects of it the next Winter, and that I should not live above six Months ; others were so good-natured to let me live a whole Year, &c. Thus was I treated by People of all Sorts, by some in a ludicrous, and by others in a serious Manner. However, I thank GOD, I have now lived above two Years in the Enjoyment of better Health than I had done for eighteen Years before :

before ; and am now as well as ever I was in my whole Life-time ; not but I have had some small Pains in my Stomach since the first taking of Quicksilver, which were soon removed by taking an Ounce or two of that glorious Medicine, or Drops of *Mynsicht's* Elixir of Vitriol in a Glass of Water. Nor had the Mercury ever any ill Effect upon me, unless a gentle solutary Spitting be so termed ; which I must deny, because I was much better after it ; and this never happened to me but once, from riding out in very cold Weather, which I really believe stopp'd its passing by Perspiration, and by that means threw it back from its natural Motion, (somewhat like its being sent into the Body by Friction.) However, I soon put a Stop to it, by a gentle Dose of Physick ; and had an excellent good Stomach to my Victuals immediately afterwards, which digested well. Thus have I troubled you, Sir, with every Thing I can immediately recollect in this Affair, relating to myself ; and, if you can have a little more Patience, will now give you some Account of the Effect which this noble Medicine hath had upon other Persons, &c. Since God Almighty has been pleased to bestow this

great

great Blessing upon me, I thought it my Duty to communicate it to as many of my Fellow-Creatures as possibly I could ; and have accordingly so done, to the utmost of my Power, and gave ocular Demonstration to several of them, that there was no Difficulty nor Danger in taking of it, and have Leave to mention the Names of some, together with their Diseases, as followeth, *viz.* *Titus Rake*, of *Bradford*, Tallow-Chandler, was soon cured of a Fit of the Gout, both in his Stomach and Limbs ; Mr. *James Fellows*, of the same Place, Bailiff to his Grace the Duke of *Kingstone*, being so bad with the Gravel, that when he had stoop, to take any Thing from off the Ground, could not get himself upright again, without the greatest Pain and Difficulty imaginable ; by taking only eight Ounces of Quicksilver, about thirteen Months since, was never troubled with that Distemper more, and was never better in his Life, than at this Time. The Reverend Mr. *Pryer*, and also the Wife of Mr. *Robert Townsend*, of the same Place, have found great Benefit in the same Disorder. *John Hanny*, a Tyler of this Town, was so ill of the Cholick for many Years past, that he continually walked stooping,

stooping, and holding both his Hands against his Stomach, was perfectly well after taking a few Doses of it; as was also the Wife of Mr. *Edmund Heall*, Clothworker. And Mr. *Matthew Smith* Clothier, found immediate Ease in the same Disorder, at taking the first two Ounces. Also *Edward Briscoe*, of *Freshford*, near this Town, Innkeeper, has found so much Benefit in the same Disorder, that he lately told me, he would not be debarred from taking Quicksilver for any Sum of Money whatever. Mr. *Robert Towns-end*, Master of the Work-House in this Town, was soon cured of a violent Pain in his Side. And one *Anthony Thresher*, of *Iford-Mill*, near *Bradford*, Fuller, having been troubled with the Cramp, Pain in his Stomach, and Reachings, for seven Years past, about two Months since took three Ounces and half of Quicksilver at twice, and has been perfectly well ever since; and hopes to do more Good in his Generation yet, having had twenty seven Children by three Wives already. Mr. *John Orpin*, an Apothecary at *Bath*, having been in a Hypocondriacal Disorder, with Lowness of Spirits, &c. to a dangerous Degree, I told him, about a Year and half since, of the many

many Cures perform'd at *Bradford* by Crude Mercury ; who told me he had heard so before, from an Apothecary of *Bradford* ; and asked me how we took it. I told him we put two Ounces at a Time into a Glass, without any Vehicle whatsoever, and drank it as other Liquids. Upon which he took it, and was perfectly cured by it in a very little Time, and has lately declared the same to me and a Room full of Company ; and that he hath been well ever since ; and will always attest the same to be true. I must further add, in Commendation of Mr. *Orpin*, that he has been so honest as to give this Medicine to several of his Patients, and to recommend it to others ; which was of Service to several Persons of Distinction in the following Seasons at *Bath*, from whence its Fame began to spread all over the Kingdom, and will, I don't doubt, be so well known and approved of in a few Years more, that if it can possibly enter into the Heart of any Man to be wicked enough to go about to cry down Quicksilver as a dangerous Medicine to be taken in at the Mouth, he will be in the same Condition, as if he were to propose a Bill for a General Excise, and find

ninety nine in a Hundred of all the sincere and unbiassed People in *Great Britain* against him.

I hear, Sir, that you are good-natur'd; and therefore have reason to hope you will pardon so much Trouble given to you by a Person you never yet saw: But for the sake of my Country, as well as of your self, I heartily and sincerely wish you good Health, and Life as long as it shall be desirable to your self; and beg Leave to subscribe my self,

S I R,

*Your great Admirer,*

Bradford,  
May 12.  
1733.

*Most Obliged, and*

*Most humble Servant,*

P. ASSENTON.

*P. S.* I waited on Mr. Methuen and his Lady at *Lukenham* the last Sunday, when he was very well, and desired you would accept of his humble Service. His good Lady was then very ill; and I heard the last Thursday there was then but little Hopes of

of her Recovery. They told me that her Case was lately sent to you, for your Advice ; but fear it was then too late ; and heartily wish, that when she went to *Bath* the first Time since her Illness, she had gone to *London*, where your Assistance in due Time might have sav'd her Life. Mr. *Lucass Selfe* presents his Service to you.



T O

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TO THE  
AUTHOR  
OF THE  
USE and ABUSE  
OF  
M E R C U R Y.

SIR,

**I**T is very natural to imagine, that a Gentleman who professes so much Zeal for the Interest of his Fellow-Creatures, would not have been ashame'd of his Name: But you chose rather to conceal yours, as suspecting that your Integrity might be call'd in question, for giving a Medicine daily, which at the same Time you affirm will sap the very Foundation of

Foundation of Life, and may be justly ranked among the slow Poisons.

You seem surprized that the Author of the *Ancient Physician's Legacy* should prescribe it in such a Variety of Complaints: But you ought in Justice to have told the World, that his Recommendation of Quicksilver in all those Cases, is supported by undeniable Facts, and a long Course of Experience.

You seem to regret very much that the proper Observations were not made in the last Century, when this Method of taking Crude Mercury was as fashionable in *England* as it is now; for you are firmly perswaded the numerous Instances of Persons who then received Prejudice from it, would have been sufficient to have deterr'd wary People from the Use of it now. When you assert a Thing so roundly, it was incumbent upon you to have shewn in what King's Reign this Medicine so universally prevail'd; or to have told us, at least, who was Lord Mayor at that Time.

I CAN recollect some Instances in the last Century, when it was given with very good Success: Sir *Nicholas Butler*, a very eminent

uent Physician in King *James II's* Reign, prescrib'd it to one Mrs. *Cope*, who lived in *Austin-Friars*, but had her Country-House too at *Edmonton*. By the Use of it, she was absolutely cured of a Lunacy. He like-wise gave it to one Miss *Fuller*, who swallowed Trash of several Sorts, Worsted among the rest; by which pernicious Practice she brought herself into a very languishing Condition; but at length was very happily cured by this slow Poison, as you are pleas'd to call it. Several People of the best Reputation now living in *Edmonton*, are ready to attest the Truth of these Facts. At the Beginning of King *William's* Reign, I gave Quicksilver my self to two Ladies in *Bristol*, in very high Hysterical Cases, one of them almost to a Degree of Madness; and yet they both succeeded very well under my Care; though I must own that one of them unfortunately died about ten Years since: The other is still in perfect Health, and not long since married to a second Husband. If these are all the ill Consequences of this slow Poison, the Ladies at least will not be much afraid of it. I have taken it my self above six and forty Years; I have been in all sorts of Climates;

and

and am now upwards of Seventy; and yet, I thank God, enjoy a perfect State of Health. If I should happen to die twenty or thirty Years hence, this Author may, if he pleases, impute my Death to this slow Way of poisoning.

You seem very much surpriz'd that I should in no Part of my Work describe the Manner of this wonderful Fluid's Operation upon human Bodies. Give me leave to tell you, Sir, that the World will think much better of me for owning my Ignorance, than if I had led them, as you have done, into a blind Labyrinth of hard Words, and unintelligible Terms. At your first setting out, you promise us very great Things, *viz.* To shew us the Nature of Mercury, its Manner of operating; and, in the last Place, to produce several Instances of its dreadful Effects. But how notoriously you have failed in each Particular, let every Unprejudiced Person determine. You say the Chymists are so much puzzled, that they don't know what to make of it; and from thence it may very reasonably be concluded, that you know as little. However, to corroborate your Phœnomena, you introduce a very silly Story in the fol-

lowing Words: " I remember an Instance  
" of a Person who did not care for stirring  
" out of his Bed, for fear of wrenching or  
" tearing some Capillary Vessel of his Body;  
" and indeed I should not have thought his  
" Apprehensions very ridiculous, if he had  
" been taking of Mercury five or six Weeks,  
" after the modern Way."

You are not contented with venting your Spleen against this innocent and useful Medicine only, but you take a great deal of Pains to banish Inoculation out of the Kingdom; which I will venture to affirm, even after the modern Method of Practice, will save more than twenty out of a hundred that die of it the natural Way. You endeavour likewise to deter People from Immersion in cold Water, for fear it should inflame the Lungs: Whereas, even in Consumptions I have often prescribed it, and found different Effects.

Notwithstanding your Archness upon me, I am perswaded [you have been much the greatest Friend to the Nurses and Grave-Diggers: I challenge you to shew when I have lost three Patients for the last five Years, where I was first called, either in acute or

chronick

chronick Case, (though I have settled in Town above eighteen Months,) and even without the Help of Blisters. On the contrary, I can prove that I cured several Patients which have been left off by more than one of the Faculty.

WHAT follows is one of his sage Remarks upon a Part of my Treatise: " After the Author (says he) has described a Consumption and Phthyfick, in which he tells us the Patient complains of a Sorenness in his Breast, Difficulty of Breathing, Loss of Appetite, a great Heat and Dryness in the Palms of his Hands, with frequent and sudden Flushings in his Face; and [observe well] after he has given too a Receipt to cure this Disorder, he concludes thus; I have of late experienced that Quicksilver is the most beneficial Thing in all the World for the Lungs, taking one Ounce every Morning." I presume by your [observe well] you take it for granted, that the Lungs are not affected by an Asthma. In short, you have bestow'd a great deal of Pains in your Laborious Treatise, to prove what every Body will readily grant you, That Mercury can never be good in

all Cases. And to support your Assertion, you say, The present practising Physicians in this Town, who, without all Dispute, are a Set of the most Learned and Judicious Men in *Europe*, unanimously agree, That Mercury hardly procures any visible Advantage, but in Asthma's only. I owe great Defe-rence to the Learned Faculty ; but hope you don't include your self ; because notwithstanding your Elaborate Treatise of the *Use and Abuse of Mercury*, you have not the least Pretensions in the World to the Title.

You think you make me appear ridiculous, by affirming that I recommend an Ounce of Quicksilver every Morning, for a Month together in the Stone, though I say, at the same Time, I have known it do Woneers.

To convince you that this Recommenda-tion is not founded upon Guesses, and bare Surmises only, I shall produce you both the Facts and the Names ; which, as a very great Man, upon another Occasion, very justly observ'd, is that stubborn Kind of Evidence, which will not yield to the most persuasive Eloquence, nor bend to the most imperious Authority.

IN answer to one of your Enquiries, If there can be any Instances produc'd of Quicksilver's passing by Urine? I am willing to give you entire Satisfaction by referring you to the following Persons: *Richard Freeman Esquire*, at the Lower-End of *Little James-Street, Bedford-Row*; *Ezekiel Wallis Esquire*, at *Luckenham*, late High-Sheriff of *Wiltshire*; and *Mr. Assenton*, of *Bradford*, in *Wiltshire*. I don't in the least question, if the proper Glasses were used, but you might see the Quicksilver voided by Urine, in more or less Quantities, by almost every Person that takes it. As it is a most excellent Remedy in the Gravel, it must necessarily enter the Kidneys; and can there be any Passage more natural for it afterwards, than the Ureters, and so to the Bladder?

NOTWITHSTANDING you set out with a Zeal for the publick Good, yet any Eye may very easily see through your shallow Artifice; for by decrying a Medicine which has performed the most wonderful Cures, upon the Evidence of some Hundreds of undoubted Credit, you have proved your self the Enemy, and not the Friend of Mankind. And if from your first, we may guess of

your

your future Performances, I think by only inverting my Motto, I shall shew you to the World in your true Light : *Homines ad Dæmona, nullâ in re propius accedunt quam salutem Hominibus negando.*

“ Liquid Quicksilver will do great Service  
“ in beginning Plicatures of the Intestines, Ob-  
“ struction of their Glands and Valves ; and in  
“ Foulnesses and hard Concretions or Obstru-  
“ ctions bred in the Mouths of the Lacteals,  
“ (which are often Cases where the Symptoms,  
“ common to other Diseases, will not admit a  
“ certain Distinction ; ) but eminently so in  
“ Asthmatick Cases, above all other Medi-  
“ cines, by its Weight only forcing open the  
“ obstructive Mouths of the Lacteals, and its  
“ Steams thereby entering the Habit, attenuate  
“ the viciid Juices of the Lungs, and render  
“ them pervious, and so promote Expector-  
“ ation. And, I think, other more appropria-  
“ ted and specifick Medicines not succeeding,  
“ this ought to be tried in all Cases of the  
“ Alimentary Tube, since it is innocent and  
“ safe as Asses Milk.” These are the Words  
of a very Learned and Honest Physician,  
though not of this Town ; who, for his  
own Part, has contributed very much to-  
wards

wards the Health and Benefit of Mankind. You see his Opinion concerning Quicksilver, That it is an admirable Medicine in Nervous Disorders ; though our most Learned Gentlemen of the Faculty aver it to be a most dangerous Medicine in all such Cases. Read *Cheyne's English Malady*, Page 133.

I SHALL publish several Facts, and so turn you over to the Author of the *Antidote*, to give, you another Pill, when, according to your Promise, you shall think proper to favour us with a Second Edition of your *Use and Abuse of Mercury* : But why will not these Friends of Mankind, these Promoters of publick Good, publish some of their own *Arcana's*, particularly of their wonderful Method of curing Fevers ? and tell us, at the same Time, when we may hope the Grand Mystery of Cooling any Person will be discover'd ? It cannot be doubted, but the most Learned Gentlemen of the Faculty have read both the Institutes of Riverius and Sennertus, whose first Axiom, in the Therapeutick Part of Physick, may be thus translated ; Whatever is cured, is cured by Contraries. Thus all living Creatures, if they find themselves too hot, remove to a

O cooler

cooler Regimen ; and, on the contrary, if too cold, to a warmer. And this is purely owing to Instinct : It would be the very same, if Mankind would follow Nature's Directions.

It is a difficult Matter to remove vulgar Errors : They are as strongly rooted as the most inveterate Disease ; and Reason and Physick are frequently baffled by both. How high did the Cry run formerly against the Use of the Bark, one of the best Medicines in the *Materia Medica* ? What Fears, what Apprehensions of its evil Consequence ? what strange Misconstructions of its Effects, and downright absolute Perversion of its Properties ? Nothing can be safe from such Misconceptions, neither Merit in Man, nor Excellence in Medicine : The wise and more honest Part of Mankind, by the natural Turn of Thought and Temper, as naturally engages in Defence of both ; and there being very few noble Remedies found either by Art or Chance, and brought in by Practice by the skilful right-judging Part of the Faculty, but have been as generously supported by Reason and Argument, at the very Instant that the Torrent of popular Clamour

mour was at the Height against them. The Cause of both is the same, and the Party form'd against both the same likewise : The great Physician in course falls into a Method of Practice, which the lazy, the little, the unskilful Practitioner can no more imitate, than he can understand where is the Wonder. Therefore that such exert all their Malice they are Masters of, and strive to blast what they cannot copy, read the *Encomium argenti vivi*, Page 26, 27. I only wish that they would let the World know the great Succeſſ they had from Vomiting and Bliftering after that inhuman Way ; not forgetting their heating Bolus's, and more heating Cordials, prescribed every ſecond Hour with Sack-Whey, together with Spirits of Harts-horn ? Let them publish ſomething of this Sort agreeable to the Reason of Mankind. Many honest Gentlemen take us for Guardians their Health and Lives : But observe how miserably they are disappointed ; when 'tis left to the Apothecaries to recommend the Physicians, who will always endeavour to ſecret him who orders the leaſt Physick.

I WAS lately called to an only Son of a Nobleman, of the firſt Quality, ſix Months old :

old : He had four Physicians ; the famous *Shropshire Gentleman, quondam Mayor of \* Shrewsbury*, at the Head of them. He had been twice vomited, twice blooded, an Issue cut in his Neck ; his Head, his Back, his Arms, his Thighs, his Legs, the Soles of his Feet, all blistered in four Days Time ; when it pleas'd God by Death to take him out of the Hands of his Tormentors.

After all that has been said concerning this most noble and excellent Remedy, yet I cannot recommend so universal and general a Use of it ; which often brings it to Discredit : And though it does many, yet it will not do all Things. Would it not be thought I speak with a View to my own Interest, which is rather design'd for the Benefit of the Publick, I should direct that the Patient always adviseth with some Person who rightly understands the Nature of Mercury, before he enters upon the Use of it.

\* *Fortunate to a Proverb.*

*F I N I S.*

*Excitat ad Venerem.*

40, Finsbury Square,

E.C.

June 16

1875

Dear Dr. Smith.

I have much pleasure in begging your acceptance of the following and copy of "The Merchant Physician's Legacy."

I wish to meet with Richard Rogers book and shall be very thankful to you for a sight of it.

Yours ever truly

W. M. A. B.

W. M. A. B.

#### “ MEDICALS AS PIRATES.”

This is a title that is going the round of the medical journals in Vienna concerning Dover, from whom we derive Dover powder. For the information of their readers they tell how Dr. Dover discovered Alexander Selkirk, the subject of “ Robinson Crusoe.” Dr. Dover was born in Warwickshire, a pupil of Sydenham, and took his degree in London, but seems to have taken to the sea immediately after. Later he is represented as Captain Dover, sailing from Bristol for Spanish ports in 1709.

About this time he lands in the island of Juan Fernandez, where he discovers Alexander Selkirk, who had been left on the island four and a half years previously. The latter is taken on board and given charge of one of the craft. After this the town of Guayaquil is assailed, and a large amount of booty carried on board. Steering along the Peruvian coast, then round the Horn, and across the briny ocean, he reaches England in 1711. The booty realised 850,000 dollars, the greater portion of this belonging to Dr. or Captain (?) Dover. With this handsome dowry he retired to London, where he left the “ Ancient Physician’s Legacy ” in 1733. [Medical Press and Circular, Feb. 10, 1904.]

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